



Queen's Quality 2

• Story & Art by Kyouzuke Motomi



Shōjo Beat

Queen's Quality 2

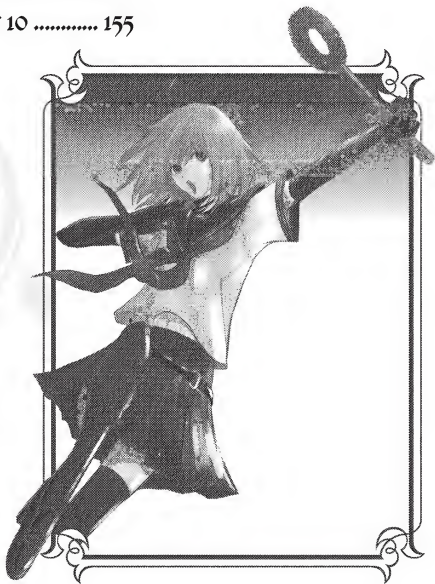
Story & Art by Kyoussuke Motomi

Queen's Quality

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Chapter
6



SHE
AND SOME OF
THE OLDER KIDS
WERE PICKING
ON ONE OF THE
PHOTOGRAPHY
CLUB GIRLS.

SOUNDS
LIKE SHE
WAS REAL
MEAN TOO.

SOUNDS
ABOUT
RIGHT. SHE
ALWAYS
PLAYED
FAVORITES.

SHE
MAKES ME
SICK. I
HOPE SHE
DIES.



HEY, DID
YOU HEAR
ABOUT MS.
HAYASHI?

YEAH!
SHE'S OUT
SICK WITH
SOMETHING
AWFUL,
RIGHT?

I HEARD
SHE JUST
LOST IT
AND THEN
COLLAPSED!

Hi, everyone, this is Kyouzuke
Motomi! Thanks so much for picking
up volume 2 of *Queen's Quality*.
I've started nicknaming this series
"Queequa." It kinda reminds me of
the cry of some powerful bird.

I hope you enjoy volume 2
of *Queequa*!



QUEE-
QUA...

No, I don't
really think
the cry of the
shoebill sounds
like this. The
shoebill is quite
impressive, huh?





YOU'VE
GOT IT
TOO...

TOO
LATE.
SERVES
YOU
RIGHT.

NO—!
WHY
IS THIS
HAPPENING
TO ME?

SHUT
UP, DOG
FACE!

YOU THINK
YOU'RE
SO CUTE?
THAT'S
HILARIOUS.

WHAT?
YOU'RE THE
ONE WHO
CALLED
HER A PIG
FIRST!

DON'T
PLAY
INNOCENT.
YOU
WERE THE
WORST!



THAT'S
ENOUGH!



THAT
KIND OF
TRASH TALK
JUST EATS
AWAY AT
YOU.

EVERY-
ONE
SETTLE
DOWN.

OH!



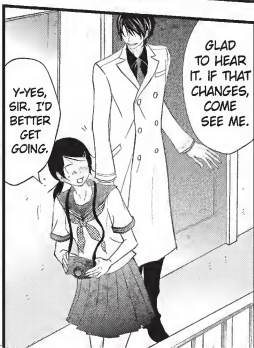
DON'T WORRY. HE JUST WANTS TO ASK YOU SOME QUESTIONS.

SMILE

YOU DIDN'T ARRIVE WHEN EXPECTED, SO I CAME TO GET YOU.

I'M KOICHI KITAGAWA, THE SCHOOL CHAIRMAN.

I BELIEVE YOU WERE TOLD TO GO TO THE COUNSELING ROOM.





I
THOUGHT
I WAS
IMAGINING
IT...

...BUT
IT'S
WORSE
THAN
YESTER-
DAY.

SOME-
THING'S
WRONG.



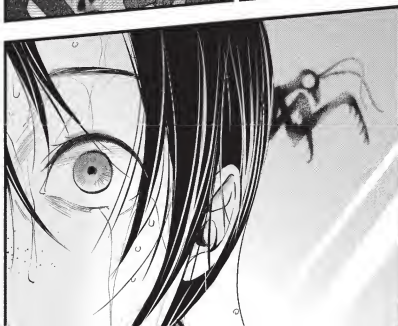
"BUGS
IN THE
HEAD"...
THAT'S
NOT JUST
A RUMOR?

AND THOSE
THINGS I
SOMETIMES
SEE...
HALLUCINA-
TIONS?



I KEEP
BEING
IRRITA-
BLE OR
SAYING
NASTY
THINGS.

MY MIND
KEEPS
GETTING
FUZZY.



WHY?
WHY?

WHAT
DID I...

...I GOT A
MESSAGE
THAT SAID...

A FEW
DAYS AFTER
THE BLACK
QUEEN
INSIDE
ME...

... "SORRY,
BUT
SOMETHING
URGENT
HAS COME
UP."

...MADE
AN
APPEAR-
ANCE...





KYLITARO
HORIKITA,
SWEEPER
OF THE
GENBU
GATE...

YES,
SIR.

...AND
FUMI
NISHIOKA,
APPRENTICE
SWEEPER
OF THE
HORIKITA
CLAN...

Y-YES,
SIR!



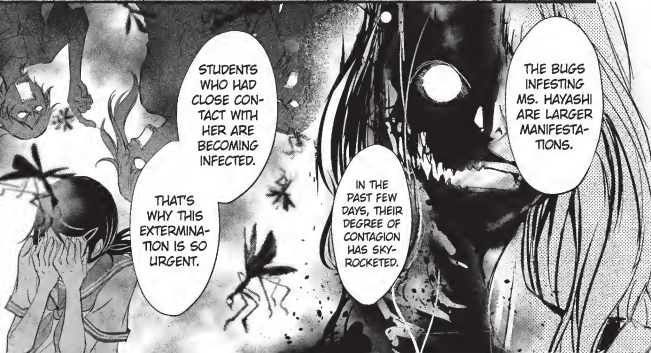
...AND
PERFORM
AN EXTER-
MINATION.

I HAVE
ORDERS
FOR YOU.

YOU
WILL VISIT
THE MIND
VAULT OF
BUG-INFESTED
PATIENT
YUKO
HAYASHI
...

...AND
GET RID
OF THE
MOTHER
BUG
INSIDE
HER.

TODAY
YOU WILL
ENTER THE
INSIDE...







IF YOU WANT TO
LEARN ABOUT THE
BLACK QUEEN
...STUDY HER
AS YOU BATTLE
IT OUT WITH THE
BUGS.

HANDS-ON
EXPERIENCE
IS THE
BEST WAY
TO LEARN.

SECOND
...



WE
SWEEPERS
ARE NOT
ALTRUISTS.

WE
HAVE NO
USE FOR
THOSE
WHO
REFUSE
ORDERS.

AND
THIRD...



IF
YOU CAN'T
DEMONSTRATE
THAT YOU'RE
OF VALUE TO
US, LEAVE.

WE
HAVE NO
OBLIGATION
TO PROTECT
SOMEONE
WHO'S OF
NO USE
TO US
...
...ESPE-
CIALLY IF
THEY'RE A
DANGER AS
A POTENTIAL
BLACK
QUEEN.



NO,
KYUITARO.

TAKAYA—!



I WILL
DEDICATE
MYSELF,
BODY AND
SOUL, TO
SLAUGH-
TERING
THOSE
BUGS.

TEN-
HUT!

I
SWEAR I
WILL BE
USEFUL
TO YOU!

YOU
CAN
COUNT
ON
ME!



YOU'RE
ENTIRELY
RIGHT.

I'VE
BEEN TAKING
ADVANTAGE OF
EVERYONE'S
GENEROSITY
...

...USING
THE BLACK
QUEEN
AS AN
EXCUSE.



YOU
LOOK
ANGRY,
Q. ARE
YOU?

IT'S
JUST...

THAT'S
HOW
ADULTS
HANDLE
THINGS?



CHASS



AND IT
DID THE
TRICK,
DIDN'T
IT?

WELL, THAT
WAS ABOUT
60 PERCENT
HANDLING
HER AND
40 PERCENT
TRUTH.

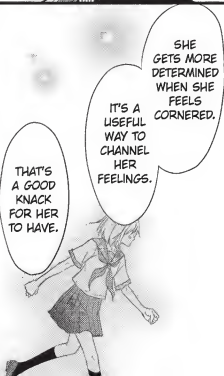


FOR THE
MOST PART,
PROTECT-
ING HER
WILL FALL
TO YOU.



ONE
MORE
THING
...

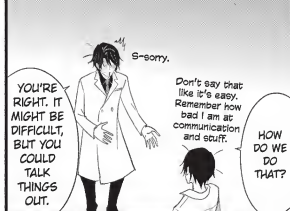
...
KYU-
TARO.



SHE
GETS MORE
DETERMINED
WHEN SHE
FEELS
CORNERED.

IT'S A
USEFUL
WAY TO
CHANNEL
HER
FEELINGS.

THAT'S
A GOOD
KNACK
FOR HER
TO HAVE.



S-sorry.

YOU'RE RIGHT. IT MIGHT BE DIFFICULT, BUT YOU COULD TALK THINGS OUT.

Don't say that like it's easy. Remember how bad I am at communication and stuff.

HOW DO WE DO THAT?



A SECRET ...

I do pat her head a lot...

And other places.

OR THINK OF A SECRET TO SHARE.

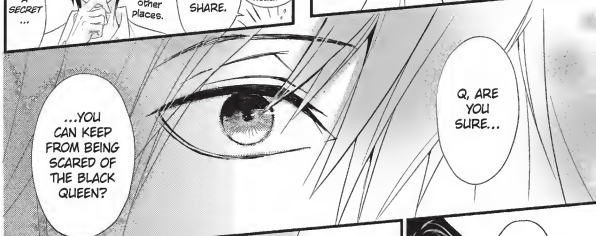
PHYSICAL CONTACT CAN HELP. Like patting her head.



SENDAI WILL BE WITH YOU...

...BUT THIS IS A RISKY UNDERTAKING.

YOUR BOND WITH FUMI IS CRITICAL. YOU NEED TO STRENGTHEN YOUR TRUST IN EACH OTHER.



...YOU CAN KEEP FROM BEING SCARED OF THE BLACK QUEEN?

Q, ARE YOU SURE...



MY FEELINGS HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL.

I'LL BE RIGHT THERE WITH HER.



I'M NOT REMOTELY SCARED OF HER.

SHE ISN'T SOME MONSTER. SHE'S PART OF FUMI.



IT'S AS
IF HE WAS
BORN TO BE
THE QUEEN'S
CONSORT...



I
GUESS IT'S
WHAT YOU CAN
EXPECT FROM
A BLOOD
DESCENDANT
OF THE
GENBU KITA
CLAN.

...BUT IT'S
HARD TO
SAY...

HE'S
BURSTING
WITH TALENT
AS A
SWEEPER.

...IF
THAT'S
GOOD
OR BAD
FORTUNE
FOR
HIM.

IT'S
ALMOST
DISTURB-
ING.

DIRTY



KYLITARO
DOESN'T
WAVER
AT ALL IN
SITUATIONS
LIKE THIS,
HMMM?

NOPE.

HE CAME
FACE-TO-
FACE WITH
THE BLACK
QUEEN
AND DIDN'T
EVEN
FLINCH.



HARD TO
BELIEVE
HE'S
ONLY A
TEEN-
AGER.

OR
MAYBE
THAT'S
WHY.



I CAN'T
DEPEND ON
OTHERS
TO SOLVE
THIS. THE
BLACK
QUEEN IS
MY PROBLEM.

GET A
GRIP.

ACCEPT
IT. DON'T
BE
NEGATIVE.



THE BLACK
QUEEN
PROBABLY...

...WANTS
ME TO BE
FROZEN IN
FEAR.

IT'S ALL
GONNA BE
FINE.

I KNOW
HOW TO ACT
AT TIMES
LIKE THIS.

NISHIOKA.





YOU
BECOME
A PRIN-
CESS,
RIGHT?

I
KNOW.

I KNOW
EXACTLY
HOW TO
ACT AT A
TIME LIKE
THIS!

HEH
HEH

BUT
I AM
FINE.

...DO THIS
QUIRKY THING
WHERE I TELL
MYSELF I'M
THE PERFECT
PRINCESS...

...TO TRY
TO CALM
MYSELF
DOWN.

WHEN I'M
FEELING
STRESSED,
I, FUMI
NISHIOKA
...

LET ME
EXPLAIN.



BECOME A
PRINCESS
NOW.

HUH?

I
WANT
TO SEE
...



SHOW
ME.

...WHAT
YOU'RE
LIKE AS A
PRINCESS.



WHY?

NOPE,
WE'RE NOT
GOING
THERE.

THAT'S
STRICTLY
IN MY
HEAD! NOT A
PERFORM-
ANCE!

GRAB

GO
AHEAD
AND DO
IT.

STOMP

STOMP



IT ISN'T EMBAR-RASSING.

IT'S SOMETHING IMPORTANT THAT KEEPS YOU GOING, RIGHT?

WHICH MEANS YOU WANT ME TO DIE OF EMBAR-RASSMENT?

YES.

YOU WANT ME TO PLAY A PRINCESS HERE? NOW?

OF COURSE NOT.



SHOW ME. JUST ME.

CAN'T YOU?



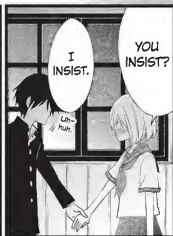
THEN ...

...YOU HAVE TO SWEAR YOU WON'T LAUGH.



I'LL FOLLOW YOUR LEAD.

IF IT HELPS, YOU CAN GIVE ME A PART.



I INSIST.

YOU INSIST?

SHE
CARRIES A
LEGENDARY
SWORD,
A FAMILY
HEIRLOOM.

AND
THIS...



**SHE
SOUNDS
FERO-
CIOUS.**

THERE'S
CHAIN MAIL
UNDER HER
DRESS.

ON HER
RIGHT HAND,
SHE WEARS
RINGS IN
PLACE OF
BRASS
KNUCKLES.

MY
INNER
PRINCESS
WEARS
HER HAIR
UP.

THAT'S
RIGHT.

YOU
HAVE TO
TIE YOUR
HAIR
BACK?



...ONE
BY
ONE.

EVER SINCE
HER NARROW
ESCAPE, SHE'S
BEEN TRAVELING
AROUND AND
KILLING THE
UNDERLINGS
SENT BY THE
DEMONS...

HER
BACKSTORY
IS THAT SHE
WAS ONCE
IMPRISONED
BY DEMONS
WHO STOLE
HER
MEMORY.

YOU
BET
SHE
IS.



SO!

I
SEE.

...SEES
WHO
SHE
IS.

...MEAN
ANYONE
WHO
KNOWS
THE
SIGNS
...

...BUT THE
LIGHT IN
HER EYES
AND HER
INNATE
GRACE...

MM-HMM.
AND SHE HAS
ONLY THE
CLOTHES ON
HER BACK,
SO SHE'S
NOT DRESSED
ELEGANTLY
...

YOUR
PRINCESS
IS WAY
DIFFERENT
THAN I'D
EXPECTED.

SHE'S
HAD IT
ROUGH.

Has
she been
eating
properly?

Yes.
Mushrooms
from the
forest...

...and
fish and
rabbits.





NO,
I'M NO
KNIGHT.

I'M
JUST A
SWEEP-
ER.

**B
L
U
N
T**



QUITE
AN
ACCOM-
PLISH-
MENT...

...BUT
THEN, YOU
ARE A
REOWNED
KNIGHT.

WELL
DONE. YOU
RECOGNIZED
ME AS THE
PRINCESS
OF PHANTOM
KINGDOM.



✖ YOU'RE
SO
INFLEX-
IBLE!

FINE,
I'LL
WORK
AROUND
THAT.

I'VE
NEVER
EVEN
RIDDEN A
HORSE.

I've
never
met
one.

BUT
I DON'T
KNOW
ANYTHING
ABOUT
KNIGHTS.

You're
such a
noncompoop!

✖ YOU
SAID
YOU'D
PLAY
ALONG!

✖ STICK
TO THE
ROLE,
WILL
YOU?



...I MUST
ASK FOR
YOUR AID.

YOU
SEE...

...MAGICAL
SWEEPER
...

LEGEND-
ARY...



WHEN THIS
ALL ENDS
AND I
REGAIN MY
MEMORY...

...I
KNOW THAT,
SOMEWHERE
IN MY LOST
MEMORY...

...IT IS
MY UTMOST
DESIRE
THAT I MAY
SAY TO
HIM...

...THERE
IS SOMEONE,
SOMEWHERE
BEYOND MY
SIGHT, WHO
HAS BEEN
SUPPORTING
ME.

..."THANKS
TO YOU, I
HAVE BEEN
ABLE TO
COME SO
FAR."

I DO
NOT WISH
TO BETRAY
HIM.



...I'VE
SWORN THAT
I WILL NEVER
LOSE HOPE,
NO MATTER
WHAT
BEFALLS
ME.

EVEN
NOW, AS
SOMETHING
DARK
WITHIN
ME...

...STRIVES
TO BRING ME
MISFORTUNE
AND STEAL
MY BODY AND
SOUL...



FOR NOW,
I'M BUT A
GIRL...

...UNTIL I
GAIN THE
POWER TO
REIN IN
THE BLACK
QUEEN.

PLEASE
LEND ME
YOUR
STRENGTH
...



...THE
MEANS TO
BARELY KEEP
MYSELF ALIVE,
MY PRIDE IN
MYSELF...

...SAVE
THE HOPES
I'VE
MANAGED
TO KEEP
TOGETHER
...

...WITH
NOTHING
TO HOLD
ON TO...



...AND
YOU.



...MAKE A
FOOL OF
MYSELF.

PLEASE
KEEP WATCH
OVER ME
SO THAT I
DON'T...





WHEREVER
YOU GO, I
WILL BE AT
YOUR SIDE.

EVEN
WITHIN THE
DARKNESS
OF NO
RETURN.

BEAUTIFUL
PRINCESS
...

IT HONORS
ME BEYOND
WORDS THAT
YOU DESIRE
MY AID.





OH!

OH
MY.



FLAP
FUMI,
YOU'RE
LOOKING
WELL..

R-
REALLY?

YES.
MUCH MORE
COLLECTED
THAN THIS
MORNING,
AND FULL
OF VITALITY.



I THINK
YOU'LL
BE ALL
RIGHT.

THE
INSIDE WE'LL
VISIT TODAY
IS QUITE
DIFFERENT
THAN
BEFORE.

YES.



IT'S
OUR...

...SECRET.



WE SHED
OUR
BODIES
LIKE
HUSKS...



...AND
LEAVE
THEM
IN THE
PHYSICAL
WORLD.



ONLY OUR
MINDS CAN
CROSS
THIS
THRESH-
OLD...

...
SEPARATED
FROM OUR
BODIES.

IT
LIES...

...BEYOND
THIS
DOOR.



WHAT
YOU'LL
SEE ONCE
WE'RE
THERE...

...WILL
LOOK
NOTHING
LIKE WHAT
YOU'VE
SEEN
BEFORE.

THE INSIDE
IS A WORLD
CREATED BY
PEOPLE'S
MINDS.



THEY
COME FROM
WHAT WE CALL
LARGER-FORM
MANIFESTATIONS—
BUGS WITH
EXTRAORDINARY
POWER.

THE BUGS
INFESTING
IT GROW
IN NUMBER
AND IN
STRENGTH.

IT'S THE
SUBCON-
SCIOUS
REALM
OF THOSE
WHO ARE
UNWELL.

IT WILL
BE VERY
DANGER-
OUS.

WE MUST
RETURN THE
INSIDE TO
THE MIDDLE
PATH—TO
BALANCE.

WE MUST
PROTECT
EACH OTHER
AS WE
DESTROY
THEM.

I AM.

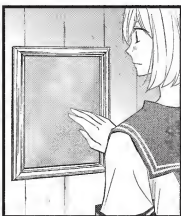
ARE
YOU
READY,
FUMI?

BUT IT
WILL ALSO
BE A CHANCE
FOR YOU TO
MAKE GREAT
STRIDES.

YOU
MUST
SELECT
YOUR
ARM.

THERE
IS A RITUAL
WE MUST
OBSERVE TO
ENGAGE
IN THIS
BATTLE.

VERY
GOOD.





YOU'VE
GRASPED
SOME-
THING?

I WILL
NOT
GIVE
UP.

I WILL
NOT RUN
FROM MY
FATE...

IF I CAN
HAVE MY
WISH...

...I WANT
A FUTURE
WITH
YOU...

PULL
YOUR
HAND
OUT.



...AND THE
STRENGTH
TO PROTECT
THAT
FUTURE.

THE
BLACK
QUEEN
WILL NOT
DEFEAT
ME.

WHAT'S
MOST
IMPOR-
TANT
IS...

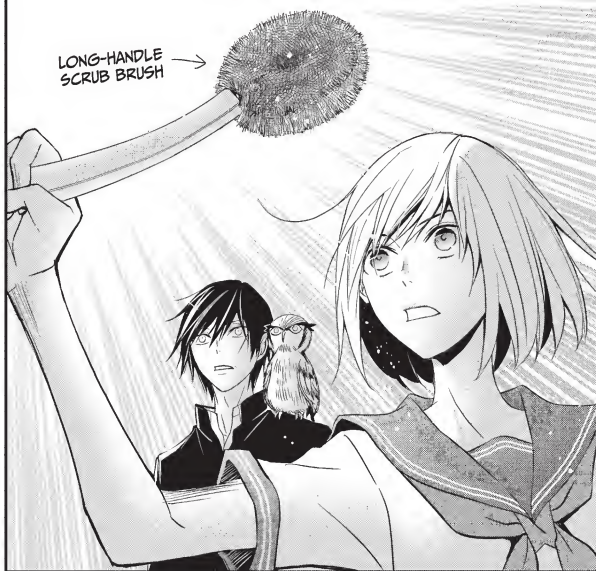
NOW, WHAT
DID YOU
CHOOSE?

WHAT
IS THE
GREATEST
STRENGTH
WITHIN
YOU?

WHAT IS
MOST
IMPORTANT
TO YOU?

FOCUS
ON YOUR
DEEPEST
CONVIC-
TION.

WHY
DO YOU
FIGHT?
WHAT DO
YOU LIVE
FOR?





CLANK

SHALL
WE GO?

IT IS
X HOUR,
X MINUTES.
CENTRAL
GENBU GATE
NO. 4 HAS
OPENED.

BEYOND
THIS
DOOR...

I AM
KYUITARO
HORIKITA,
ASSISTANT
TO THE 38TH
LEADER OF
THE KITA
CLAN...

...WITH
MY SENDAI,
MIYAKO
HORIKITA.

FIRST, OUR
GREETING.

...IS THE
STRANGE
WORLD
OF THE
INSIDE.

...PLUS
...

...AND
THE HOPES,
POSSIBILITIES
AND CONVIC-
TIONS I'VE
SCRABBLED
TOGETHER...

IN MY
HAND IS
MY NEW
WEAPON
...

...OR
MAYBE A
JEWEL.

...YOU
GAVE ME,
ALMOST
LIKE A
JOKE...

...THE
SWEET
SECRET...



BUT COMBINED
AND HONED, THEY
SYMBOLIZE MY
COURAGE.

THOSE
ARE
ALL I
HAVE.

I AM...

...HORIKITA
CLAN
SWEEPER
FUMI
NISHIOKA.



I HAVE TO
TEAR IT TO
PIECES...

WE
ARE NOW
ENTERING
THE INSIDE.

WHETHER OR
NOT I COWER
IN FEAR,
DESPAIR WILL
TRY TO GET
ITS HOOKS
INTO ME.

...BEFORE IT
SWALLOWS
ME UP.



MONTHLY BETSUCOMI SALE DATE NOTICE ON TWITTER



CHAPTER 6

↑
Teru and Kurosaki from my previous series *Dengeki Daisy*

WHAT'S UP IN *QUEEN'S QUALITY* THIS MONTH?

- (1) THEY AREN'T GERMS... I DIDN'T HAVE MUCH MATERIAL ON FLYING PRAYING MANTISES TO GO BY.
- (2) WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "AND OTHER PLACES" (BESIDES HER HEAD)?
- (3) I WANTED A CHAIN MAIL SUIT TOO, WHEN I WAS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL.

IN CHAPTER 6, FUMI FINALLY ATTAINS THAT MOST POWERFUL THING!

WHAT'S UP IN *QUEEN'S QUALITY* THIS MONTH?

- (1) SUDDENLY SHE'S IN KNEE-HIGHS!
- (2) LISTEN, KYUTARO. IF YOU HUG HER FROM BEHIND LIKE THAT, YOU'LL GET THAT SCRUB BRUSH!
- (3) HUH? IS THAT A NEW CHARACTER?

IN CHAPTER 7, SOMETHING IS GOING ON THAT KYUTARO KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT!

↓
This is also Kurosaki.

CHAPTER 7



Chapter
7







ARE...
ARE THE
BUGS
GONNA
EAT MY
BRAIN...?

AM I
BEING
PUNISHED
...

...BECAUSE
I THOUGHT
MS. HAYASHI
GOT WHAT
SHE
DESERVED?

HELLO,
ATARU?
IT...IT'S
MIKI.

AT THE
TONE,
PLEASE
RECORD
YOUR
MESSAGE.

BEEP

S-SOME-
THING'S
WRONG.
I'M
SEEING
THINGS.

I SEE
BUGS.

The model for Fumi's weapon, the long-handle scrub brush, is the brush I use when I bathe (it's meant for bathing). My brush is a bit harder and rougher than regular ones, so it's painful. I have a masochistic streak, though, so I like it.

Oh...
This is
pretty
good.

Hey!
No one
cares to
see him
like that!



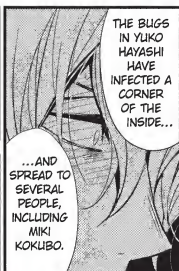
HAVE
THE BUGS
INFEST-
ING THAT
TRASHY
WOMAN
STARTED
SPREADING?

SIS!



BECAUSE
I HAD THE
QUEEN
INTERFERE
...?

IS
IT MY
FAULT?



THE BUGS
IN YUKO
HAYASHI
HAVE
INFECTED A
CORNER
OF THE
INSIDE...

...AND
SPREAD TO
SEVERAL
PEOPLE,
INCLUDING
MIKI
KOKUBO.



NOT
GOOD.



IT
SEEMS
SO.



DON'T
BE
STUPID.

I'LL
GET RID
OF THAT
WOMAN
AND THE
MOTHER
BUG.

THIS
IS MY
FAULT,
SO I'M
FIXING
IT.

ATARU,
WHAT
ARE
YOU
DOING??

DON'T
GO TO
THE
INSIDE!

IT'S NOT
WORTH
RISKING
YOUR
LIFE!



I
WANT
TO
CARRY
OUT
...

...A
PERFECT
REVENGE,
JUST
LIKE I
PLANNED.

ANYWAY,
IT'S MY
FINAL
JOB.



YOUR
REVENGE
ON THIS
WORLD—

SIS.



SO WHAT
IF IT'S
SPREADING?

GRAB

THEY
BROUGHT IT
ON THEM-
SELVES!





TING

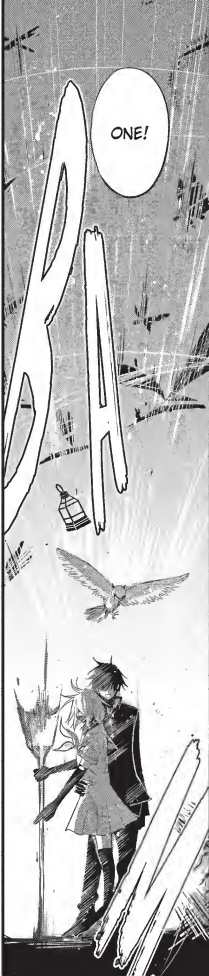
B-
B
M
P

B-
B
M
P

SWEEPERS,
HUH?

I'LL
CROSS
THAT
BRIDGE
...

...IF I
COME
TO IT.



ONE!

ALL
WHO
SERVE
ONLY TO
UNDER-
MINE...

...WILL
VANISH
WHEN I
COUNT
DOWN
FROM
THREE.

THREE
...

TWO
...



WE ARE
SWEEPERS.



WE'LL
TAKE CHARGE
OF ALL
PRESENCES
HERE AND
RETURN
THEM TO
THE MIDDLE
PATH.



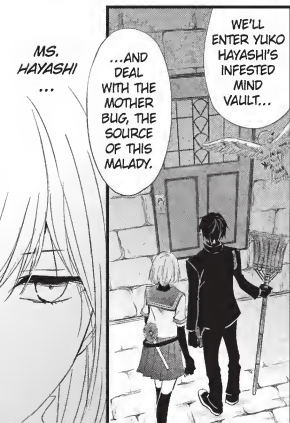
THEY
MULTIPLY
AS
QUICKLY
AS WE
ERADICATE
THEM.

BUT THE
BUGS IN
HERE KEEP
GROWING IN
STRENGTH
AND
NUMBERS.



EXCELLENT!

YOU
PERFORMED
THAT
PURIFI-
CATION
BEAUTI-
FULLY.



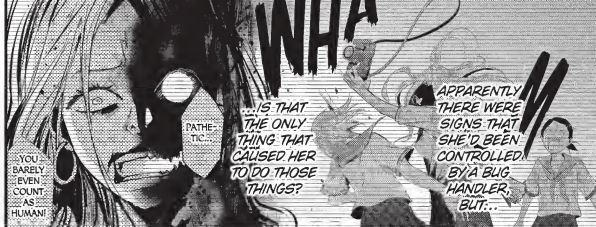
MS.
HAYASHI

...AND
DEAL
WITH THE
MOTHER
BUG, THE
SOURCE
OF THIS
MALADY.

WE'LL
ENTER YUKO
HAYASHI'S
INFESTED
MIND
VAULT...



I'M PROUD
OF YOU,
CHILDREN.



YOU
BARELY
EVEN
COUNT
AS
HUMAN!

PATHETIC...

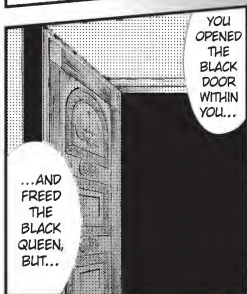
...IS THAT
THE ONLY
THING THAT
CAUSED HER
TO DO THOSE
THINGS?

APPARENTLY
THERE WERE
SIGNS THAT
SHE'D BEEN
CONTROLLED
BY A BUG
HANDLER,
BUT...



...BEFORE
WE DO
THAT...

NOW...



YOU
OPENED
THE
BLACK
DOOR
WITHIN
YOU...

...AND
FREED
THE
BLACK
QUEEN,
BUT...



FUMI, I
SHOULD
TELL YOU
A STORY
ABOUT...

...THE
BLACK
QUEEN
THAT HAS
YOU SO
CONCERNED.



...YOU
NEEDN'T
WORRY ABOUT
THAT—AND WE
DON'T HAVE
TIME FOR
YOU TO
WORRY.

YOU
MUST
UNDER-
STAND
...



AND IF I
CAN'T, MY
CHARAC-
TER WILL
CHANGE
...

...AND
I'LL
BECOME
A BLACK
QUEEN?



IF,
BY THE
TIME YOU
OPEN THE
FINAL
DOOR...

...YOU'VE
REMAINED
TRUE TO
YOURSELF
...

...YOU'LL
BECOME
A TRUE
QUEEN
WHO WILL
EMBODY
YOUR OWN
CHARAC-
TER.

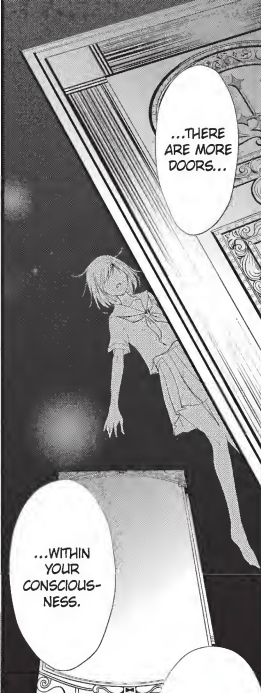


YOU'LL
HAVE
MANY
CHAL-
LENGES.

I
CAN'T
CLAIM IT
WILL BE
EASY.



BUT WILL
YOU FACE
YOUR
DESTINY
BRAVELY?



...THERE
ARE MORE
DOORS...

...WITHIN
YOUR
CONSCIOUS-
NESS.



HAVING
OPENED THAT
FIRST DOOR,
YOU'LL SLOWLY
BE DRAWN
INTO DEEPER
LEVELS.

FLAP

I'LL
SHARE
EVERY-
THING I
KNOW
WITH
YOU.

DON'T
WORRY.

I LIKE
THE
LOOK IN
YOUR
EYES.

I AM
MY OWN
SELF.

AND
DON'T
FORGET
...

...THAT
YOUR
CONSORT,
WHO WILL
SHARE
YOUR
DESTINY, IS
AT YOUR
SIDE.

YES, I
WILL.

I WILL
NOT BE
CONTROLLED
BY ANYONE
ELSE.

...YUKO
HAYASHI'S
MIND
VAULT.

NOW,
THEN.
LET'S
ENTER
...

SHIN



YOU'RE
TENSE.
RELAX.

OKAY
...

DON'T
LOOK
AROUND.
IT'S
DARK.

JUST
FOCUS
ON ME.



G-GOT
IT!

NISHI-
OKA,
HANG
ON.

WE'LL
STAY
TOGETH-
ER.

R-
RIGHT
...

REMEM-
BER TO
BREATHE.
NICE AND
DEEP.



WE'LL
FALL A
LITTLE
WAYS.

STAY
ALERT.
DON'T BE
TAKEN IN
BY THE
DARK-
NESS.

KYLITARO,
TAKE
CARE OF
FUMI.

I
THOUGHT
I DIDN'T
WANT...

...ANYONE
TO
CONTROL
ME...

...AND
YET
YOU...

MY
BODY DOES
WHATEVER
YOU TELL
ME.

WHY DOES
THE SOUND
OF YOUR
HEART...

...RESONATE
SO DEEPLY
INSIDE ME?



TUP



THIS PLACE MUST HOLD DEEP MEANING FOR HER.

THE MIND VAULT REFLECTS ...

...A PERSON'S MEMORIES, HOPES AND TROUBLES.

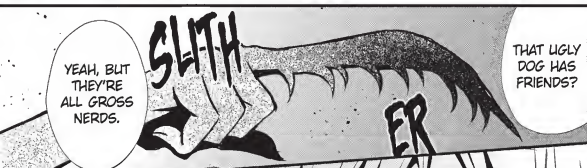
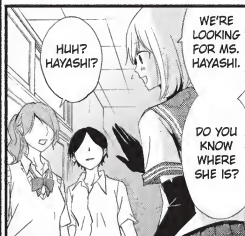


HER MIND VAULT...?

THIS IS A SCHOOL, ISN'T IT?

YEAH, BUT IT'S NOT OUR SCHOOL.







BUT YOU
KNOW
WHAT
TO DO.
CENTER
YOUR-
SELF.



BUGS
ARE
FUSING
WITH
HER
MEMO-
RIES.

THEY'RE
BOTH
TRICKY
AND
TROUBLE-
SOME.

WHAT?



YOU
MUST
STAY
ALERT,
FUMI.

I'M
SORRY.
THEY—

YES.
THEY
WERE
BUGS,
NOT
PEOPLE.



WITH
SOLEM-
NITY.

THIS
IS A
SWEEP-
ER'S
DUTY.



MALICE AND
A PERSON'S
CHARACTER
ARE SEPARATE
THINGS.
THERE'S NO
PLACE FOR
SYMPATHY.

STRIKE
FIRMLY WITH
A STRONG,
CALM WILL.

HEY,
GOLEM,
YOUR
SHIRT'S
TOO
SHORT.

WITHOUT
FEAR.

WHY
ARE YOU
CRYING?

IT'S
JUST MY
SON,
HEARDOUS!

YOU'RE
FRIENDLY
WITH
THAT
SHRIMP.

LOSE
SOME
WEIGHT,
THEN.

WITHOUT
ANGER.

WITHOUT
CONTEMPT.



THERE'S
NO NEED
TO SHOW A
TRACE OF
PITY.

THROW
THAT HARSH
REALITY
INTO THEIR
FACES.





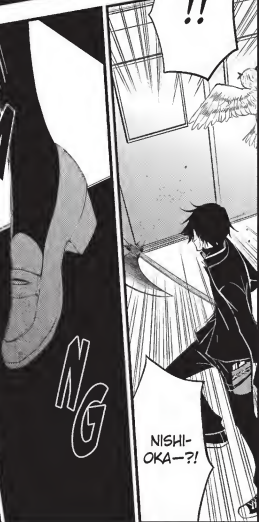
THE VOICE
OF A
FRAGMENT...?

...IT'S
DESPERATE
FOR HELP
AT THE
SAME
TIME.

WHILE
FIGHTING
US OFF
WITH
MALICE
...

HER
TRUE SELF
IS FULL OF
CONTRADICTIONS.







NISHIOKA!
NISHIOKA
...!



THIS IS
UNLIKE
YOU!
CALM
DOWN!

KYU-
TARO!

NO—!



SHE'LL
GROW
STRONGER
IN THESE
SITU-
ATIONS.

BESIDES,
SHE'S A
SWEEPER
TOO.



GOT
IT.

HAVE
MORE
FAITH IN
YOUR
PARTNER.



THERE'S
A ROUTE
TO WHERE
FUMI IS
SOMEWHERE.
LET'S SPLIT
UP AND
LOOK FOR IT.

A MIND
VAULT'S
STRUC-
TURE
CHANGES
OFTEN.

F.L.P.

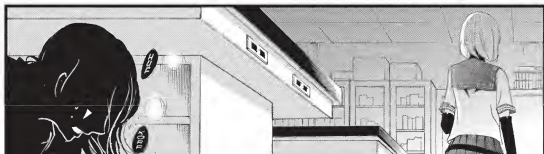


GAAH!



...WHAT
KIND OF
THINGS
HAS SHE
GONE
THROUGH?

IF
THAT'S
THE
CASE...



HUF
...

KOFF
...



I'LL
SQUASH
YOU TO
A PULP
WITH MY
SCRUB-
BER!

THERE
YOU
ARE, YOU
INSECT!

EEE!



GUESS WHAT?





DIE, YOU
TRAITOR!

UH-
OH...

HAYASHI,
YOU'RE
STILL
FRIENDS
WITH HER?

WE
MADE
YOU
ONE OF
US.

S
W
A
Y



WHEW
...

YOU
DIE-
FOR-
EVER!

NASTY
BUG.



THIS IS YOUR ARM, HUH? I KNOW ALL ABOUT THOSE.

HUH? WHO'RE YOU CALLING A SWEEP—

YOU MUST BE A SWEEPER TOO, RIGHT?



HUH?

THANKS! TH YOU SAVED ME. YOU'RE A GOOD SHOT.

I WASN'T TRYING TO SAVE YOU.

I'M SORRY I THOUGHT YOU WERE A BUG!



SORRY FOR NOT INTRODUCING MYSELF. I'M FUMI NISHIOKA, A SWEEPER OF THE GENBU GATE.

MAY I ASK YOUR NAME?

REALLY?! ME TOO!

I GOT SEPARATED FROM MY PARTNERS.

...SU-ZAKU.

UM, YES. A SWEEPER OF THE ...



BUT IT'S GREAT TO MEET SOMEONE IN THE SAME TRADE!

R... RIGHT.

SO SOMETIMES SWEEPERS FROM DIFFERENT GATES TEAM UP TO EX-TERMINATE BUGS?

I'M STILL NEW. LOTS TO LEARN!



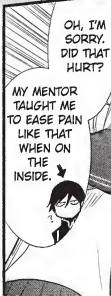
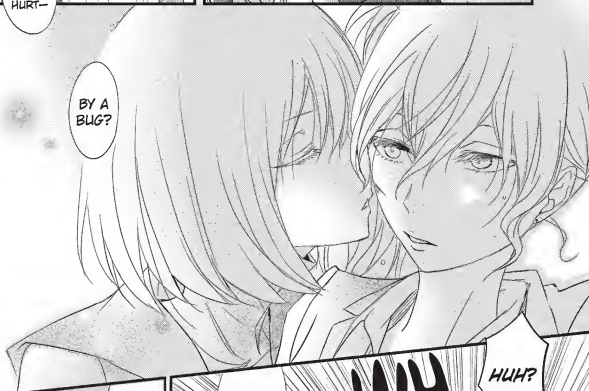
NOD NOD

HANAKO!

... HANA-KO.

THAT'S A NICE NAME.

Very pretty.





I'LL TAKE CARE OF THESE GUYS TO THANK YOU FOR SAVING ME.

...SIT BACK AND REST, HANAKO.



NOT BY BUGS, EVEN IN A PLACE LIKE THIS ...

I WON'T BE DEFEATED.

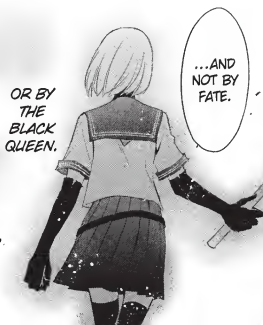


DON'T WORRY! THIS IS FATE.

WHAT? WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?! YOU DON'T NEED TO—

WHAT'S WITH THE SCRUB BRUSH ?

AND THIS IS MY WEAPON. IT'S VERY POWERFUL.



OR BY THE BLACK QUEEN.

...AND NOT BY FATE.



NOW
YOU GET
TO SEE
THE
RESULT!

LISTEN
UP!

DAY AFTER
DAY I TRAIN BY
SCRUBBING
TOILETS WHILE
THAT NONCOM-
POOP KYUTARO
CRITICIZES MY
WORK.



NO
WAY YOU
WERE
DATING
THAT
SHRIMPY
NERD,
RIGHT?

I ALWAYS
KNEW
YOU WERE
PRETTY.

YOU'VE
CHANGED,
YUKO.

WHY
DON'T
YOU
COME
TO OUR
PARTY?

YOU'VE
GOTTEN
PRETTIER,
HAYASHI.

SHE'S
JOKING.
DON'T
BELIEVE
HER.

WE'RE
FRIENDS,
AREN'T
WE?



IT'S
SOME-
THING
OTHER
THAN
MALICE.

HE WAS
CRYING. IT
WAS SO
FUNNY.

WHAT'S
WITH
THIS
WEIRD
VIBE?

HUH?

HE'S
STILL
LOOKING
AT YOU,
YUKO.

I...

TELL HIM
NOT TO
BOTHER
YOU.

HOW
NICE!





A
KEY
...?

CHAK

WHERE'D
THIS
COME
FROM?



NISHIOKA
!!

OH!



CLINK

WHY?
BACK
THEN...



FORGIVE
...



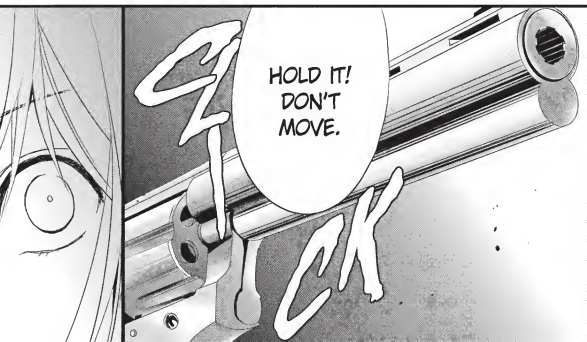
KYUTARO!



KYUTARO,
DID YOU
JUST—

YEP! STILL
IN ONE
PIECE.

ARE
YOU ALL
RIGHT?



HOLD IT!
DON'T
MOVE.



IT FIGURES
YOU'D RECOG-
NIZE ME.

AREN'T
YOU...?

EVEN
IF I'VE
CHANGED
MY LOOKS
AND MY
GENDER.



HANAKO!
DON'T!

HE'S A
SWEEPER!
HE'S MY—

YES, I
KNOW.



MONTHLY BETSUCOMI SALE DATE NOTICE ON TWITTER



CHAPTER 8

THESE TWO ARE FROM DENGKI DAISY: TERU (A CLIP) AND RIKO (D CLIP). THEY ALSO APPEAR BRIEFLY IN QUEEN'S QUALITY.

WHAT'S UP IN *QUEEN'S QUALITY* THIS MONTH?

- (1) SENDAI REALLY LET DOWN HER GUARD.
- (2) MALE ARTISTS SEEM TO DRAW FEMALE BREASTS BETTER THAN I DO.
- (3) CALL THE NEW CHARACTER YUKO.

IN CHAPTER 8, YUKO JUST HAS TOO MUCH FUN, SO FUMI AND THIS AUTHOR ARE REALLY MAD!

WHAT'S UP IN *QUEEN'S QUALITY* THIS MONTH?

- (1) MY EDITOR'S THE ONE WHO TOLD ME TO DRAW MORE TENTACLES.
- (2) ATARIU'S SISTER'S STEPPING ON HIS FOOT.
- (3) SO, KYUTARO, WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT HER THIGH? EVEN WITH SO MANY CHARACTERS DRESSED ALL IN WHITE, CHAPTER 9 STILL LOOKS DARK!

CHAPTER 9





Chapter

8



About the outfits our two leads wear when entering *The Inside*: the braid on Kyutaro's shoulder seems to show his rank as a sweeper, but Fumi's stockings presumably reflect someone's taste. I suppose Sendai might have said something to the effect of "showing too much skin could attract bugs," or that it wasn't good for her to get cold, but I think Kyutaro might have stressed that "wearing tights just wouldn't be right."



HE
MAY NOT
LOOK THE
SAME AS HE
DOES IN THE
PHYSICAL
WORLD...

...AND HE
LOOKS LIKE
A GIRL
RIGHT NOW,
BUT THIS
IS ATARU
SHIKATA.

THE
GUY WHO
TRIED
TO PUSH
YOU INTO
BECOMING
THE BLACK
QUEEN
...



THAT BUG
HANDLER.



I
SUP-
POSE.

NO
WAY...

IT'S FINE
IF YOU
THINK
I'M
WEIRD...

THAT'S
AWFUL!

...BUT YOU
SHOULD
KNOW THIS
ISN'T HOW I
PREFER TO
DRESS.



THAT'S
RIGHT.

SORRY
FOR
LYING
TO YOU,
FUMI.





WHAT DID I DO...?

UM...

HUH?

TWITCH

WHAT DID YOU DO?

I'M SUPPOSED TO HAVE THOSE!

I'M WAY MORE UPSET ABOUT YOUR BOOB EQUIPMENT!

IT'S NOT ABOUT THE WEIRDNESS.

SQUAWK



Don't cry, all right?

I can't even picture it!

DON'T HUMOR ME! ANSWER THE QUESTION!

HOW WOULD I LOOK IF I WERE STACKED LIKE THAT?

I HAVE NO IDEA.

I COULD HAVE HUGE BOOBS TOO??

UH... SURE? I GUESS SO?

SO IN THEORY, I COULD LOOK LIKE THAT WHILE I'M IN THE INSIDE, RIGHT?

I JUST... DID IT ...

STOP



Tell her!

AND DON'T GET SO EMBARRASSED. THEY'RE JUST BREASTS.

HEY, DON'T BLAME ME! YOUR PARTNER STARTED IT.

CAN WE NOT TALK ABOUT BOOBS?

And what's wrong with small ones?



LOOK,
THIS IS
GETTING
OLD.



STOP
MESSING
AROUND.

JUST
HAND
OVER
THAT
KEY.

IT'LL
LEAD
ME
TO...



I
DON'T
HAVE TO
ANSWER
THAT.



AND
WHAT'LL
YOU DO
THERE?



...THE
CORE
OF YUKO
HAYASHI'S
MIND.

IT'S
YOU WHO
DOESN'T
UNDER-
STAND THE
SITUATION.

HURRY
UP AND—



I DON'T
THINK
YOU'RE
GRASP-
ING THE
SITUATION.

THAT'S
WHERE THE
MOTHER
BUG
CAUSING
ALL THE
SICKNESS
IS.



NOW
LOWER
THAT
GUN.

YOU LET
YOUR GUARD
DOWN, CHILD.
SLOPPY.



...BUT
THIS IS
PERFECT.

WE'VE
BEEN
LOOKING
FOR YOU.

Granny!

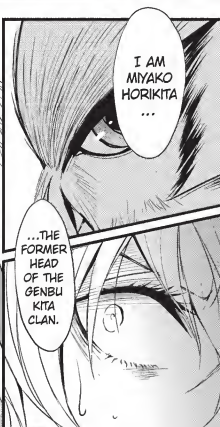
AND
HERE
YOU'VE
WAN-
DERED
INTO
OUR
HANDS.



IF YOU
UNDER-
STAND,
DON'T
MAKE A
MOVE.

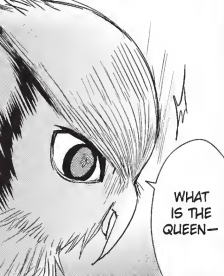
ARE
YOU
SERIOUS
...?

I
DON'T
KNOW
WHY
YOU'RE
HERE
...



I AM
MIYAKO
HORIKITA
...

...THE
FORMER
HEAD
OF THE
GENBU
KITA
CLAN.



WHAT
IS THE
QUEEN—



YOU
SEEM TO
BE PRO-
TECTING
SOME-
ONE.

ARE YOU
WORKING
ALONE?
WHO'S
GIVING YOU
ORDERS?

THERE
IS MUCH
WE WISH
TO KNOW.



GET
AWAY
FROM
THERE!

FL
AP

NO!
FUMI!



GIVE
IT
BACK.



WHAT?





RETURN
AT ONCE IF
YOU FEEL
THINGS ARE
BEYOND
YOUR
CONTROL.

THE
MIND
VAULT IS
CRUM-
BLING.

THIS
ISN'T
GOOD
AT
ALL.

YES,
BUT
...

IF YOU
GET IN
TROUBLE
...

...
REMEMBER
YOUR TOP
PRIORITY...

...BEFORE
YOU ACT.

KYUTARO!
FIRST AND
FORE-
MOST...

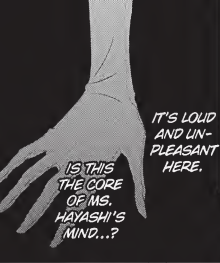
...YOU
ARE THE
QUEEN'S
CONSORT.

FLAP



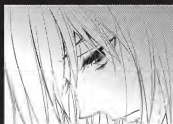
I
UNDER-
STAND.





IT'S LOID
AND LIN-
PLEASANT
HERE.

IS THIS
THE CORE
OF MS.
HAYASHI'S
MIND...?



OH NO.
IN ALL
THE
FUSS
...I
LOST
CONTACT
WITH
KYUTARO
AGAIN.



IT'S SO
DARK...



EVEN IF
IT WAS
THE BUGS
CAUSING
IT...

SEE HOW
SHE'S
SNORTING
?

I ONLY
KNOW. SHE
DID STUFF
LIKE THAT.

SHE
GETS SO
WORKED
UP WHEN I
TOUCH IT.
HILARIOUS,
HUH?

I REALLY
DON'T
KNOW
HER VERY
WELL.



I'M
SORRY
...

IF THAT
WAS A
FRAGMENT
OF HER
TRUE
HEART...

THE MALICE
I FELT
THEN WAS
DIFFERENT.

BUT...



Bye,
Yuko.

Enjoy
your
new
friends.





HE WAS
SERIOUS
AND
KIND.

HE WAS
SHORT.
HE
PLAYED
PIANO.



AND
...

OVER-
WEIGHT
AND
UGLY,
BUT
KIND.



MS.
HAYASHI
...?

IS
THAT
YOU?



...
SATOSHI.

I'M
SORRY...



MS.
HAYASHI
...

AND
YET...

...I DID
THAT TO
HIM.



IS THERE
SOME-
THING...

...YOU
REGRET?



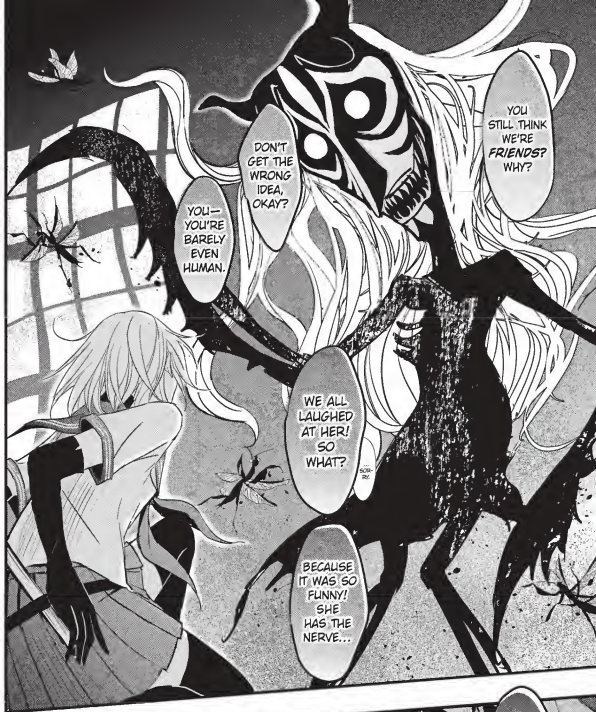
DON'T
LET ME
FOOL
YOU.

SLITHER

HA HA
HA HA
HA!

SLITHER

SLITHER



YOU
STILL THINK
WE'RE
FRIENDS?
WHY?

DON'T
GET THE
WRONG
IDEA,
OKAY?

YOU—
YOU'RE
BARELY
EVEN
HUMAN.

WE ALL
LAUGHED
AT HER!
SO
WHAT?

BECAUSE
IT WAS SO
FUNNY!
SHE
HAS THE
NERVE...



THAT
UGLY
PHOTOG-
RAPHY
NERD.

DON'T
...

TRY
HARDER
IF YOU
DON'T
WANT
PEOPLE
LAUGH-
ING AT
YOU!

DON'T
GIVE ME
THAT LOOK!
YOU THINK
YOU'RE
BETTER
THAN
ME?

YOU'RE
NOTHING
BUT
SCUM—
AND
YOU'RE
ANNOY-
ING.



THEY'RE
ALL
TRASH.
WHAT A
JOKE.

I'M THE
ONE YOU
SHOULD
FEEL
SORRY
FOR.

YOU
...!

HMPH! I
ALWAYS
GET
BLAMED.

EVERY-
ONE DOES
IT! WHY
PICK ON
ME?



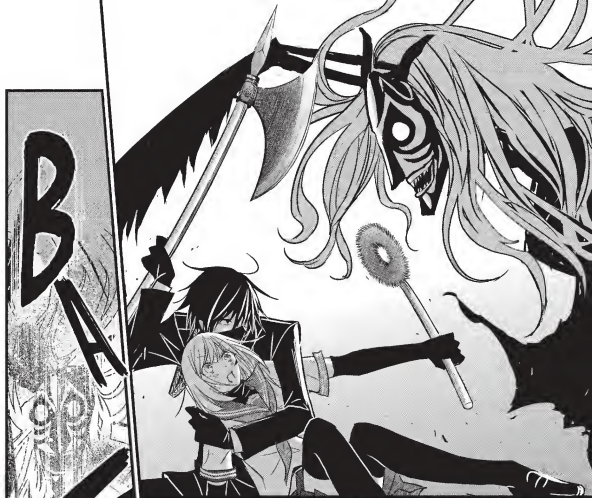
SHUT
UP!

YOU'RE
THE
ONE—

DIE.

DISGUST-
ING...

IT'S
DISGUST-
ING. I
WISH
YOU'D
ALL
DIE.



KYU-
TARO!

CALM
DOWN.

DON'T
ATTACK
WHILE
UPSET.

WE
HAVE
TO
PURIFY
IT.

IF WE
ATTACK,
WE'LL
JUST
HURT
HER.

IT'S
FUSED
WITH THE
CORE
OF MS.
HAYASHI'S
MIND.

I THINK
IT'S THE
MOTHER
BUG.

SWISH





SHE'S
IN HER
TERMINAL
STAGE.

THAT
MOTHER
BUG GREW
UP FEEDING
ON YUKO
HAYASHI'S
MALICE.



YOUR
LITTLE
PURIFYING
TRICKS ARE
NO MATCH
FOR THAT.

GIVE UP
TRYING TO
SAVE THAT
TRASH.



THE
MORE YOU
ATTACK IT,
THE MORE
THE BODY
FRAGMENTS.

THAT
MAKES IT
HARD TO
PINPOINT
THE CORE
OF HER
MIND.



IF
THAT OLD
LADY OWL
SAW THIS,
SHE'D MAKE
YOU RETREAT
BEFORE
YOU COULD
BLINK.

YOU'RE
NOT THE
QUEEN,
SO YOU
CAN'T
DO IT.



YOU
REALLY
THINK
THAT'S
POS-
SIBLE?

SHE
ATTACKS
NONSTOP,
SO HOW
DO YOU
PLAN TO
SAVE
HER?

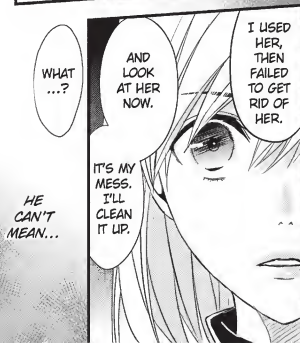
WILL YOU
QUARAN-
TINE EVERY
PIECE AND
LOOK FOR
THE CORE?



THE BEST
THING FOR
THE WORLD
IS KILLING
HER BEFORE
SHE CAN.

SHE'S A
MONSTER.
SHE'S GOING
TO EXPLODE
AND GET HER
GUTS ALL OVER
EVERYTHING
AS SHE
DIES.

THIS BUG'S
FATTENED
UP ON
HAYASHI'S
MIND AND
EVERYONE
AROUND
HER.



WHAT
...?

AND
LOOK
AT HER
NOW.

I USED
HER,
THEN
FAILED
TO GET
RID OF
HER.

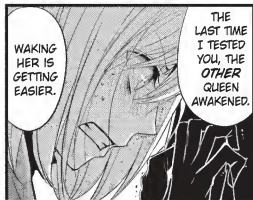
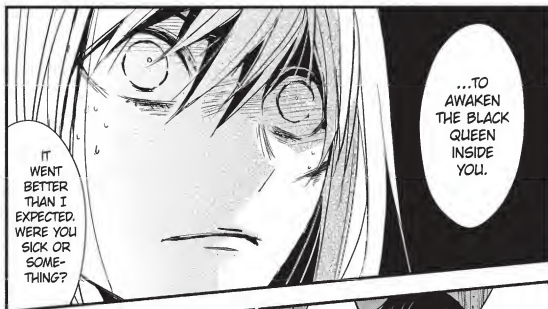
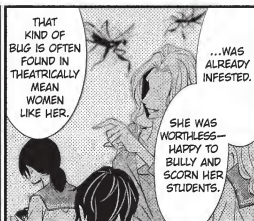
IT'S MY
MESS.
I'LL
CLEAN
IT UP.

HE
CAN'T
MEAN...



SO
YOU'RE
HERE TO
KILL YUKO
HAYASHI?

YOU
COULD
SAY
THAT.













NISHIOKA!
CALM
DOWN!

YOU SHOT
KYUTARO
!!

YOU
—!!



DON'T
LET
YOUR
FEELINGS
RUN
WILD.

THOUGHTS
LIKE THAT
WILL DRAW
BUGS.

I'M FINE.
IT'S
JUST A
SCRATCH.



THERE
YOU
GO.

YES.

...YOUR
VOICE...

LIKE
THAT.

EVEN
AT A
TIME
LIKE
THIS
...



TAKE
DEEP
BREATHS.

CONTROL
YOUR
EMOTIONS.

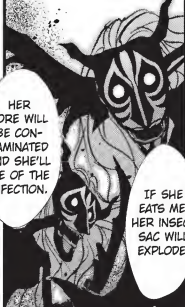
JUST
LIKE WE
PRACTICED,
OKAY?

Y-
YES.





TRASH
VERSUS
TRASH.
EVERY-
ONE
LOSES.



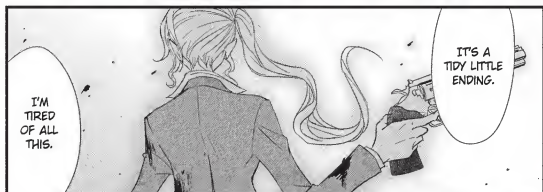
HER
CORE WILL
BE CON-
TAMINATED
AND SHE'LL
DIE OF THE
INFECTION.

IF SHE
EATS ME,
HER INSECT
SAC WILL
EXPLODE.



...IS
FULL OF
BUGS,
SEE.

A
BUG
HAND-
LER
...



I'M
TIRED
OF ALL
THIS.

IT'S A
TIDY LITTLE
ENDING.



TRASH
THAT'S
HAPPY TO
CRUSH
OTHER
PEOPLE
...

TRASH
THAT'LL DO
ANYTHING
TO GET
REVENGE
...

GARBAGE
ORGANIZA-
TIONS KEEP
TURNING
PEOPLE INTO
WORTHLESS
FILTH LIKE
THAT...

I WANT
YOU TO
KILL THEM
ALL. CLEAN
THINGS UP
AND SAVE
THE WORLD.

LISTEN,
FUMI.

ATARU
...

JUST...
TURN INTO
THE REAL
BLACK
QUEEN
SOON,
WILL
YOU?



IT'S
NOT MY
FAULT.

EVERYONE
SHOULD
DIE.

MORON.
YOU'RE
THE
WORST.

UGH,
YOU
MAKE
ME
SICK.

BLAM

COME
ON, DON'T
GET DIS-
TRACTED.

BLAM

I'M THE
ONE YOU
WANT!

BUT...

HE'S
RIGHT.
THERE'S
NOTHING
I CAN
DO.

IF
WE STAY
HERE, WE'LL
JUST GET
CAUGHT UP
IN IT.

DON'T
ARGUE.

B-BUT
...

NISHIOKA,
WE'RE RE-
TREATING.



...WANTS
OUR
HELP.

NEITHER
OF
THEM...

IS THAT
TRUE?
THERE'S
NOTHING
WE CAN
DO?



REVOLT-
ING. DIE.

PROBABLY
BECAUSE
IT'S ALREADY
TOO LATE.

SICKEN-
ING.

PLEASE

HELP

...ME.

THIS IS
A RISKY
SITUATION.

IF I STICK
MY NECK
OUT...

...I MIGHT
TURN INTO
A QUEEN.



UZZZ

NO.
NOT
YET...

BUT...

WHAT CAN I
DO? I HAVE
NOTHING. I'D
JUST GET IN
THE WAY.





"CONTROL
YOUR
EMOTIONS.
JUST LIKE WE
PRACTICED,
OKAY?"

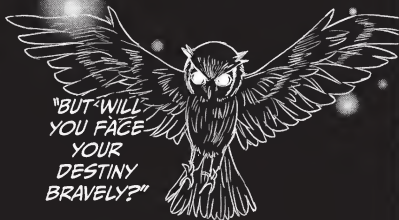
"IF FUMI HAS
THE QUALITIES
OF THE TRUE
QUEEN..."

"...THEN, SHE
MIGHT SEE
AND LEARN
THE MOST..."

"IF... YOU'VE
REMAINED TRUE
TO YOURSELF,
YOU'LL BECOME
A TRUE QUEEN..."

"...SURROUNDED
BY CARNAGE,
WHERE EVERY-
THING IS AT
STAKE."

"I CAN'T
CLAIM IT
WILL BE
EASY."



"BUT WILL
YOU FACE
YOUR
DESTINY
BRAVELY?"



"WILL YOU
QUARANTINE
EVERY PIECE
AND LOOK FOR
THE CORE?"



"YOU'RE
NOT THE
QUEEN, SO
YOU CAN'T
DO IT."

"THE LAST
TIME I
TESTED
YOU, THE
OTHER
QUEEN
AWAKENED."

"AT THIS
POINT, ANY
LITTLE THING
WILL AWAKEN
THE QUEEN IN
YOU."

I NEED
YOU TO
DO ME A
FAVOR.

TURN ME
INTO A
QUEEN,
OKAY?

KYLITARO
...

I...
OH!



ARE YOU
SERIOUS?!

I DON'T
KNOW IF
I'LL BE
A BLACK
OR WHITE
QUEEN
...

...BUT
FOR THE
FIRST TIME,
I'LL DO IT
BECAUSE I
CHOOSE
TO.

CLENCH

BUT I'M
TERRIFIED,
ALL
RIGHT?

I
HAVE TO
STAND UP
AND FOLLOW
WHERE
THIS POWER
LEADS
ME.

I
CAME HERE
TO FIGHT
WHAT I'M
AFRAID
OF.

I CAN'T
ALWAYS BE
AFRAID AND
HAVE YOU
PROTECT
ME.

HOW
CAN YOU
SAY
THAT?

DON'T
YOU RE-
MEMBER
HOW
MUCH
THE IDEA
OF THAT
SCARED
YOU?!

YES,
BUT
THAT'S
NO
GOOD!



I
UNDERSTAND...

SO I
WANT YOU
TO GIVE ME
THE ORDER,
KYLTARO.

...I'M
ALWAYS
ABLE TO
OBEY
YOU.

WHEN YOU
TELL ME TO
DO THESE
THINGS
...



I
THINK I
HAVE AN
IDEA OF
HOW TO
BECOME A
QUEEN.

...THAT
I HAVE
TO GET
PAST
THIS.

I HAVE
TO
CONCENTRATE...

...AND
FEEL LIKE
I'M SINK-
ING DOWN
UNDER MY
CONSCIOUS-
NESS.

PLEASE
COME
WITH ME.

PLEASE
TELL ME
TO GO.

PLEASE
...



ALL I HAVE
TO DO IS
THINK IT...

THEN I
WON'T
FEEL
ANYTHING.

NO HORRIFYING
PRESENCE,
SOUND OR
EMOTION...



...AND
CONCENTRATE
AS HARD AS
I CAN.



THEN I
JUST HAVE
TO DIVE
INTO THE
ABYSS.

NOTHING
BUT YOU.



GO.

FUMI, YOU
CAN DO
THIS.

I'M
FALLING...

...STRAIGHT
DOWN.

MONTHLY BETSUCOMI SALE DATE NOTICE ON TWITTER

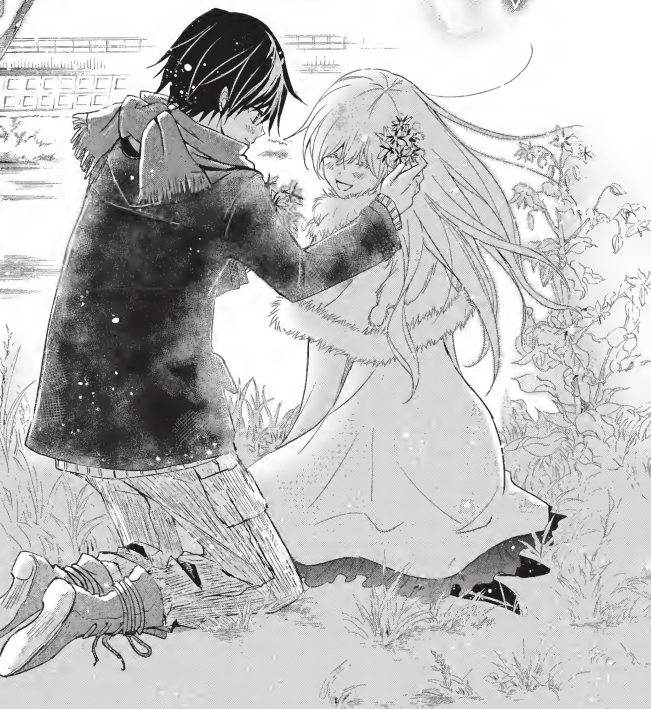
CHAPTER 10

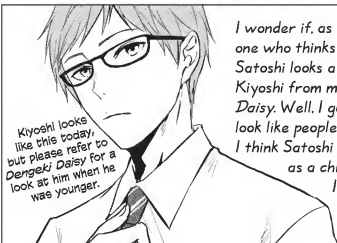


WHAT'S UP IN *QUEEN'S QUALITY* THIS MONTH?
(1) ANOTHER ONE OF THE AUTHOR'S WISHES (SAKE!)
(2) YOUR HAIR GOT IN MY EYE AND I'M EVEN MORE
TEARY... (' ; W ; ') UNGH...
(3) A WARM, GENTLE CONVERSATION
IN CHAPTER 10, KYUTARO'S SOMMELIER-ISH ABILITY
AWAKENS!

I've been tweeting things like that every day.
If you don't read it (and sometimes even if
you do read it), it can be hard to understand.
I post these illustrations in color on Twitter.
I sometimes even post brand-new illustrations
or notices, or just everyday mutterings. Please
check it out from time to time! @motomikyosuke

Chapter 9





I wonder if, as the author, I am the only one who thinks Ms. Hayashi's young friend Satoshi looks a lot like a character named Kiyoshi from my earlier series *Dengeki Daisy*. Well, I guess there are humans who look like people they've never met before. I think Satoshi was a hundred times better as a child than Kiyoshi was. And I have a soft spot for boys who play the piano.



"IF YOU
GET IN
TROUBLE,
REMEMBER
YOUR TOP
PRIORITY."

"KYUTARO!
FIRST AND
FORE-
MOST..."

"...YOU
ARE THE
QUEEN'S
CONSORT."



IF WE HAD
THE QUEEN'S
POWER
NOW...

B-
B-
M-
P

YES, I
UNDER-
STAND.

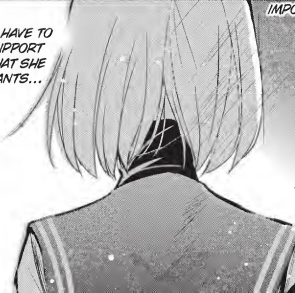


...I CAN
CONTROL
HER. IT'LL
ALL BE FINE.

AND IF
THE BLACK
QUEEN
APPEARS...



MOST
IMPORTANTLY...



...I HAVE TO
SUPPORT
WHAT SHE
WANTS...

...AS SHE
PREPARES TO
ENTER THIS
NIGHTMARE
SITUATION.

FUMI, YOU
CAN DO
THIS.

...I'LL
FALL
WITH YOU
FOREVER.

GO.

EVEN IF
IT TURNS
OUT TO BE
A MISTAKE

...

GOOD
LUCK.

KISS





I CAN'T
DO THAT,
THOUGH.

I HAVE
TO STAY
ALERT.



IT'S NOT
SO MUCH
SINKING
...

...AS
BEING
SLUCKED
DOWN
AT HIGH
SPEED.

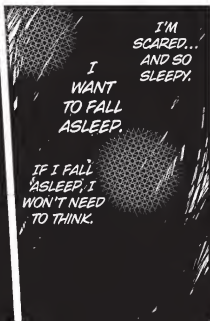
IT'S
FRIGHTENING.



I'VE GOT
TO REACH
OUT...

...AND
KEEP
AN EYE
OUT
SO I
SEE...

...THE
SCARY
THING
INSIDE
ME.



I'M
SCARED...
AND SO
SLEEPY.

I
WANT
TO FALL
ASLEEP.

IF I FALL
ASLEEP, I
WON'T NEED
TO THINK.





BLACK AND WHITE...DOORS...?



...TRADE
PLACES.



I'LL
DO IT
FOR
YOU.

LET'S



CREAK

WHO
DO
YOU
HATE?

WHAT
DO
YOU
HATE?

JOLT

YOU
AREN'T
NEEDED.

SHE
CAME
DOWN
HERE
WITH A
PLAN.

SHE'S NOT
HERE TO
ESCAPE.

COME.

THIS
WAY.

SHIP

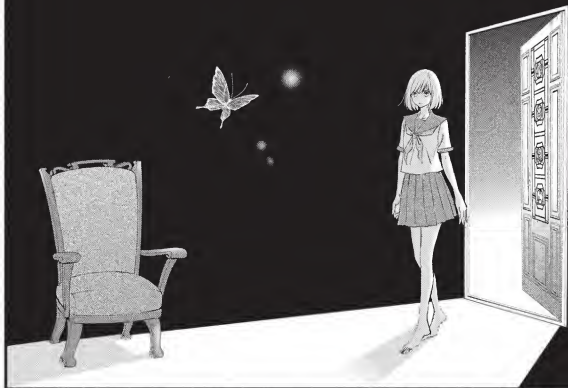
SOB
...

FRESH

DON'T
INTERFERE,
BLACK
QUEEN.
GET BACK
IN THERE.

HOW
SAD.

SOB
...



IT'S A
COMFORT-
ABLE
CHAIR.
YOU'LL
SLEEP
WELL.

SIT
DOWN
THERE.

WELCOME.
I KNOW
WHY
YOU'RE
HERE.



WAS
THAT THE
BLACK
QUEEN
BACK
THERE?

ARE
YOU A
DIFFERENT
ONE?

ARE YOU
THE TRUE
QUEEN?

WHO ARE
YOU? THE
QUEEN?

YOU
MUST BE
TIRED. WHY
DON'T YOU
REST A
LITTLE?

IN THE
MEAN-
TIME—

WAIT!



I CAME
TO USE MY
POWER
AS A
QUEEN.

I DIDN'T
COME HERE
TO SLEEP.



YOU
LACK THE
QUALIFICA-
TIONS.

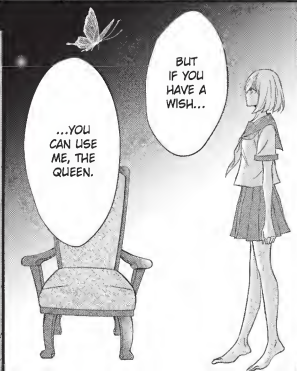
...YOU
CANNOT
BECOME
QUEEN.

AS YOU
ARE
NOW...



IN
EXCHANGE
...

...YOU MUST
EARN YOUR
COMPENSA-
TION.



...YOU
CAN USE
ME, THE
QUEEN.

BUT
IF YOU
HAVE A
WISH...

"EARN MY COMPENSATION"...?

AS THIS CONTINUES, YOU WILL COME TO SOME SORT OF UNDERSTANDING.

IN EXCHANGE, YOU MUST BEAR THE PRICE.

YOU WILL ENTRUST YOUR WISH TO ME.

FROM NOW ON, YOU AND I WILL WORK TOGETHER.

IS THAT THE CONDITION FOR ME TO BECOME THE TRUE QUEEN?

WILL YOU ENTRUST ME WITH YOUR WISH?

TRUST ME.

I CANNOT TELL YOU MUCH NOW.

...DO I REALLY HAVE THE CHOICE OF REFUSING?

AFTER COMING HERE...

IF YOU AGREE, THEN SIT.



I
WANT TO
KNOW...

...WHAT
THE
PERSON
...

...BURIED
UNDERNEATH
ALL THAT EVIL
TRULY FEELS.

PLUS...



IS MY
TRUE
WISH...



...TO
SAVE
HER?

NO...

I DO
WANT
TO, BUT
THAT'S
NOT THE
POINT.



EVERY-
ONE
SHOULD
DIE.

WHY
WAS I SO
SHAKEN
...?

PLEASE
REVOLT-
ING. DIE.

HELP
...

...
ME.



CLOSE
YOUR
EYES.

TELL ME
YOUR
WISH.

THERE
CAN BE NO
LYING OR
HYPOCRISY.

ONLY
THE TRUTH.
DO NOT
DISAPPOINT
ME.

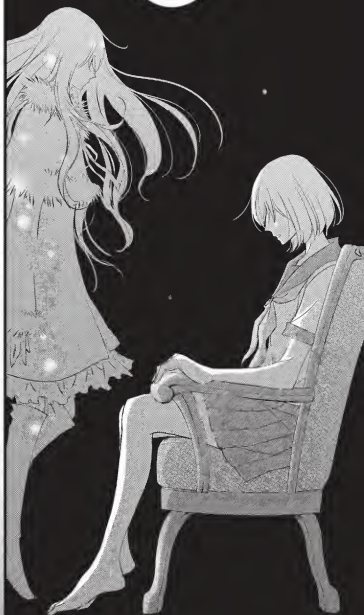


WHAT
BEAUTIFUL
WISHES!



ALL
RIGHT.

EVIL
INTENTIONS ARE
NUISANCES. I
DON'T WANT
THEM AROUND.





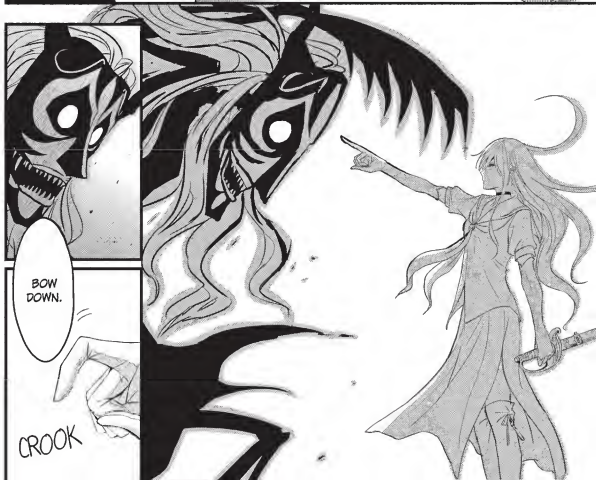
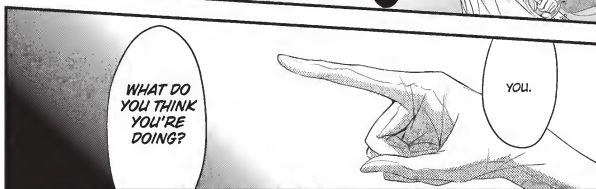


B-
BMP



B-
BMP







WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING
HERE?

WHO
ARE
YOU?



IF
YOU DON'T
UNDERSTAND,
AT LEAST
BE STILL.

THE QUEEN'S
POWER
DEMANDED
SUBMISSION.

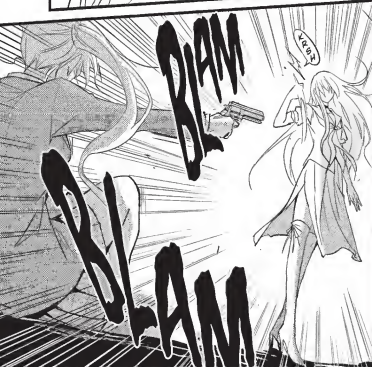
...SHE
CONQUERED
THE PLACE,
MIND AND
SOUL.

WITH
RIDICULOUS
EASE...



SHE IS A
QUEEN...

...NOT
FLUMI.





MALICE IS EVERYWHERE HERE.

UN-WANTED ...

WHY?

TMP



ARE YOU AFRAID?

HOW VULNERABLE.



YOU SHOT AT ME?



YOU'RE MUCH WORSE THAN THE BLACK QUEEN!

WHY DID YOU APPEAR AGAIN?

ENOUGH.

CROOK

BREAK.



AAAAAH!!!

KRAK

AH...

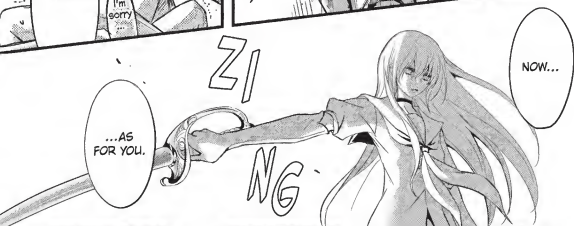
SNAP

KRAK



SNA

P





ARE YOU
PLANNING
TO KILL
HER?



AND IF
I AM?



SHIVER

BUT
STILL...

I...



GULP



...TORN
APART
FROM THE
INSIDE.

FEAR THAT
THEY'LL
BE...



TERROR
RULES
EVERYTHING
HERE.



THIS
ISN'T WHY
FUMI WENT
SEARCHING FOR
THE QUEEN'S
POWER.

I WILL
SAY MY
PIECE.

I AM THE
QUEEN'S
CONSORT.



...AND
SEND
FUMI
BACK.

EXPLAIN
YOUR
REASONING
FOR KILLING
THAT POOR
THING.

IF YOU
CAN'T,
GO BACK
WHERE
YOU CAME
FROM...



I SEE.





YOU
THINK YOU
CAN DO
BETTER?



...AND
EMOTIONS
DON'T
INTEREST
ME.

I CAN
MAKE
THAT
GIRL'S
WISH
COME
TRUE
...



is she a
noncom-
pote?

?
What
is she
even
talking
about?
P

...?

IT
MAKES
NO DIF-
FERENCE.

I SEE.
SO IT'S
NOT
FRAIL.



I'M PRETTY
SURE THAT'S
WHERE THE
CORE IS.

...FOR
NOW.

MAYBE.
YOUR
POWER HAS
STOPPED
THE BUGS
...

SHE ZEROED
RIGHT IN ON
THIS ONE.



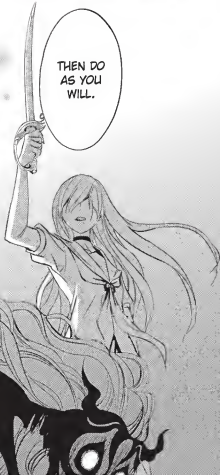
I'M JUST A
SWEEPER.



SHING

THEN DO
AS YOU
WILL.

BUT
KINDLY DON'T
DISAPPOINT
THAT GIRL.





THERE'S
ONLY SO
MUCH I
CAN DO.

THERE'S
ONLY SO
MUCH I
CAN OFFER
SOMEONE...



YOU'RE
HIDING
SOME-
THING
PAINFUL.

THERE'S
SOMETHING
YOU'RE
AFRAID
OF, ISN'T
THERE?

TWITCH



HELLO,
YUKO
HAYASHI.

...WHO'S
GOING TO
SUFFER
BECAUSE
OF ME.



IT'S NOT
EVEN
KINDNESS.

WON'T
YOU TELL
ME
ABOUT
IT?

PLEASE?

NO...

SHUT
UP!

WHAT I
CAN OFFER
WITH
CONFIDENCE
...

...ISN'T
FRIENDSHIP
OR GOODWILL.

MY NAME
IS KYUTARO
HORIKITA. I'M
A SWEEPER.



...TRYING
TO MAKE
FUN OF
ME?

IDIOT!
YOU'RE
REVOLT-
ING...

I
SAID
NO!

ABOUT
YOUR-
SELF?

INSULT
ME?
BLAME
ME?

ARE
YOU...

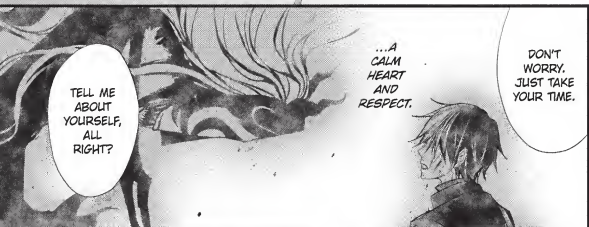
...AND
ANNOY-
ING!
DON'T
LOOK
AT ME.

SHUT
UP!
SHUT
UP!

YOU'RE
HORRIBLE!
YOU'RE
TRASH!

YUKO
HAYASHI.

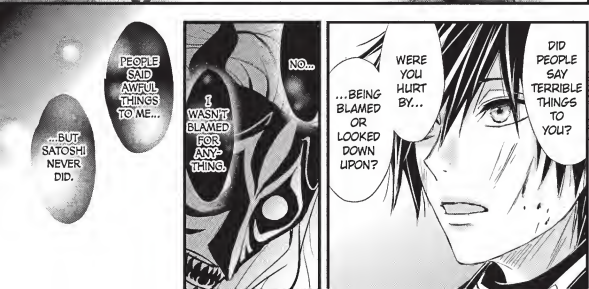
WHAT
I CAN
OFFER
IS...



TELL ME
ABOUT
YOURSELF,
ALL
RIGHT?

...A
CALM
HEART
AND
RESPECT.

DON'T
WORRY.
JUST TAKE
YOUR TIME.



PEOPLE
SAID
AWFUL
THINGS
TO ME...

...BUT
SATOSHI
NEVER
DID.

NO...

I
WASN'T
BLAMED
FOR
ANY-
THING.

...BEING
BLAMED
OR
LOOKED
DOWN
UPON?

WERE
YOU
HURT
BY...

DID
PEOPLE
SAY
TERRIBLE
THINGS
TO
YOU?



I-I
WORKED
SO
HARD...

I GOT
PRETTIER,
I LOST
WEIGHT,
BUT...



I
THOUGHT
IF I DIDN'T
LAUGH
WHEN
...

...
EVERY-
ONE
ELSE DID,
I'D BE
ALONE
AGAIN.



SATOSHI
DIDN'T
BLAME
ME FOR
ANYTHING.

PLIP

EVEN
WHEN
I WAS
HORRIBLE
TO HIM.



THEY
ALWAYS
POINTED
AT ME.
IT WAS
TERRIBLE
...

UGLIER
THAN I WAS
BEFORE,
EVEN. ALL
THAT FOR
NOTHING...

...INSIDE,
I WAS STILL
UGLY.



I'M
BETTER
THAN
YOU
NOW!

I'M NOT
LIKE YOU
ANY-
MORE!

I
COPED BY
SAYING
THOSE
THINGS.

I
BLAMED IT
ON OTHER
PEOPLE.



NO. THAT'S
NOT TRUE.
NO ONE
ACTUALLY
SAID
ANYTHING.

IT
WAS THE
UGLY GIRL I'D
BEEN. SHE
WAS SAYING
THOSE
THINGS TO
ME.

SO I
STARTED
HATING
MY OLD
SELF EVEN
MORE.

SO
THAT'S
WHY.

SATOSHI,
AND OTHER
KIDS LIKE
SHE
HERSELF
HAD
BEEN...



EVEN
WHAT I
BLAMED
THEM
FOR...

WHY
...

...DID I
FORGET
THAT?

I'M
SORRY...



AAAARGH!

WHY?
WHY?!



IT'S SO
SMALL...

...BUT
IT'S STILL
HER.

WE WERE
IN TIME.



QUIT
INTERFER-
ING!

WHY DID
YOU RUN
AWAY?
WHY?

DON'T
RUN
AWAY
FROM
ME.

TRAITOR!



STAY
AND DO
AS I-

SLASH



IMPRESSIVE.
IT SEEMS
YOU DID
MANAGE TO
EXTRACT
HER TRUE
FEELINGS.

NOW...



CAN I
KILL ALL
OF THEM,
AT LEAST?

...WE
DON'T
HAVE
MUCH
TIME.



MALICE...

THERE'S
NO NEED
TO KEEP
THEM
ALIVE.

THAT'S
FINE.



BEFORE
LONG, IT'S
MANIPULATING
THE HEART
TO SERVE
ITSELF.

YOU
SAID YOU
DIDN'T
WANT TO
SEE, SO
I HID YOU.

ONE.

NO... I
WON'T
DISAP-
PEAR.

AND
EVENTUALLY,
IT DESTROYS
THE HEART.

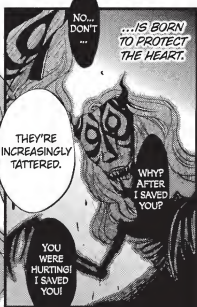
TWO.

FOR-
GIVE
ME.



WHEN I
COUNT TO
THREE...

...YOU WILL
CRUMBLE
AND
DISAPPEAR.



NO...
DON'T
...

...IS BORN
TO PROTECT
THE HEART.

THEY'RE
INCREASINGLY
TATTERED.

WHY?
AFTER
I SAVED
YOU?

YOU
WERE
HURTING!
I SAVED
YOU!



THREE.

...THE
REASON FOR
THEIR BIRTH,
AND THEIR
PURPOSE...

THE FOOLISH
HUSKS OF
EMOTIONS
THAT HAVE
FORGOTTEN...







KYUTARO ...





PLEASE
RECOG-
NIZE THE
TRUTH.



PROTECT
ME.

PLEASE.







THIS IS
WONDERFUL!
IT LOOKS
LIKE YOU
DID A FINE
JOB.

SENDAI!

KYU-
TARO!

THE MIND
VAULT HAS
STOPPED
CRUMBLING
TOO.



YOU
CAN TELL
ME ABOUT
IT LATER.
WE MUST
RETREAT
AT ONCE.

...SOME-
THING SEVERE
HAD-
PENED,
HMM?



BUT...



WE'D
BETTER
BRING
THAT BUG
HANDLER
WITH US.

HE
LOOKS
BADLY
INJURED.

F
L
A
P







NISHIOKA
...?

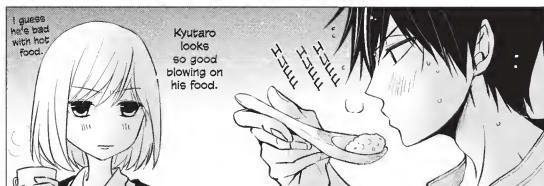
MOTHER...

"SHE'LL
RECEIVE HER
COMPENSATION."

"ONE DAY,
SHE WILL
REMEMBER..."

"...WHAT
IT IS SHE
SHOULD
WISH FOR."





Hi. Once again, the afterword has wound up here. Thank you very much for reading *Queen's Quality* volume 2!

It's only the second volume, but there's a fair bit of violence going on. If you count the three volumes in the *QQ Sweeper* series, though, this is the fifth volume, so I guess it's not that early for bloodshed. If any of you haven't read the previous series, I do urge you to catch up.

Well, I hope to see you all in volume 3!

Kyousuke Motomi ✨

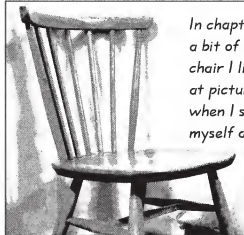


Send your
letters to: ♡

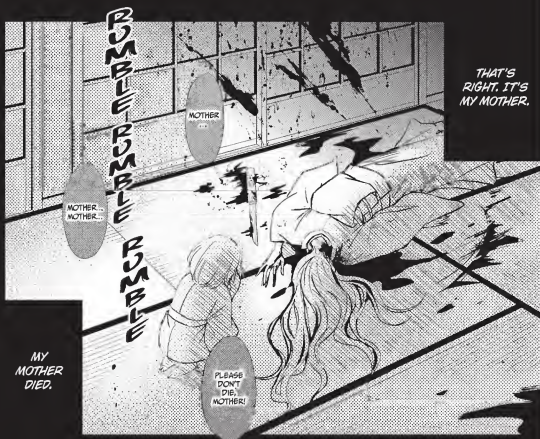
Kyousuke Motomi
c/o Queen's Quality Editor
Viz Media
P.O. Box 77010
San Francisco, CA 94107



**Chapter
10**



In chapter 9, there's a comfortable chair. It has a bit of an antique look—exactly the kind of chair I like. For the most part, I just sit and grin at pictures in catalogs and on the internet, but when I started work on *Queen's Quality*, I told myself a million times that I needed something for reference for my work. So I finally bought myself a used Ercol chair! It's for reference, but I treasure it.



THAT'S
RIGHT. IT'S
MY MOTHER.

MOTHER

MOTHER...
MOTHER...

MY
MOTHER
DIED.

PLEASE
DON'T
DIE,
MOTHER!



I'M
SO SAD.

Mother...

I'M THE
ONE
CRYING.

Mother...
Mother...

I
CAN'T...

IF SHE
DIES...

OH...

Mother...

IT'S TOO
SAD. I CAN'T
DO THIS.

AH...
I'M ALL
ALONE.



OPEN
YOUR
EYES.



MAKE A
FIST AND
RELAX
IT. TAKE
SOME
DEEP
BREATHS.

Y-YES.

ARE
YOU ALL
RIGHT,
FUMI?

OKAY
...



...THE
CONTRACT
WITH THE
QUEEN
THAT YOU
MENTIONED
?

WERE
THEY
RESTORED
BECAUSE
OF...



BUT WE
NOW KNOW
THAT...

THOSE
WERE
PAINFUL
MEMORIES.

...THEY'RE
MOMENTS
FROM YOUR
PAST.





IT WAS
BRAVE OF
YOU TO TAKE
THAT STEP.

...BECOMING
THE TRUE
QUEEN WERE
SPECIFIED,
CORRECT?

WHATEVER
THE CASE
MAY BE
...

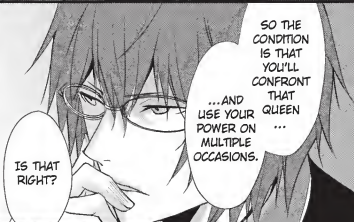
...YOU SAY
THAT THE
CONDITIONS
AND RISKS
INVOLVED IN YOU...



...YOU'LL
REGAIN
SOME PARTS
OF YOUR
MEMORY
EACH
TIME...

AND
IN EX-
CHANGE
...

WE'LL
NEED TO
RESTRAIN
THE BLACK
QUEEN AT
THOSE
TIMES.



IS THAT
RIGHT?

SO THE
CONDITION
IS THAT
YOU'LL
CONFRONT
THAT QUEEN
...

...AND
USE YOUR
POWER ON
MULTIPLE
OCCASIONS.



...AS THEY
DID THIS
TIME.

...WHICH SHE
SAYS WILL CAUSE
YOU SOME PAIN
AND SHOCK...



IT'S A LOT
TO TAKE ON.
DO YOU STILL
WANT TO PUSH
FORWARD?



I'M
NOT GOING
TO START
WAFFLING
NOW.

WHAT
GOOD WILL
IT DO IF
I STOP
NOW?

OF
COURSE
I DO.

THAT
COMPENSATION
IS A BURDEN
I SHOULD
BEAR.



IT DIDN'T
HURT TOO
MUCH. I'M
ALL RIGHT.

CLENCH

...I DIDN'T
KNOW THAT MY
SEPARATION
FROM MY
FAMILY WAS
UNPLEASANT.

I WANTED
MY MEMORY
BACK, AND
IT'S NOT
AS IF...



I'd like to
get back
to my
cleaning
duties.!!

NOPE!
I'M
TOTALLY
FINE!

You
must be
exhausted.

THERE,
YOU'RE
DEBRIEFED.

DO YOU
NEED TO
REST?



Y-
YES.

CAN YOU
DRAW THE
SYMBOL
YOU SAW
ON THAT
SWORD?

YOUR
MEMORIES
MIGHT
GIVE US
SOME
CLUES.

I'm
good at
drawing.



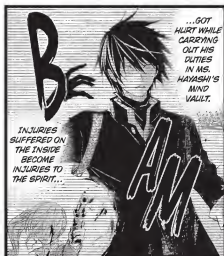
HE'S NOT
FEELING
WELL, BUT
I THINK
YOU CAN
TALK TO
HIM.

IS IT
POSSIBLE
FOR ME TO
SPEAK TO
KYUTARO
NEXT?



I
SEE.

IN
THAT
CASE,
WE'D
BETTER
GIVE YOU A
HAND.



INJURIES
SUFFERED ON
THE INSIDE
BECOME
INJURIES TO
THE SPIRIT...

...GOT
HURT WHILE
CARRYING
OUT HIS
DUTIES
IN MS.
HAYASHI'S
MIND
VAULT.

KYUTARO
...

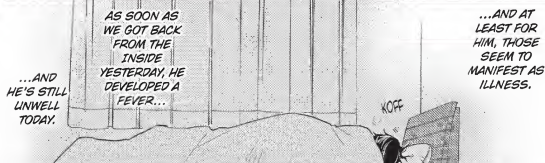
I WANT
TO DO HIS
SHARE OF
THE
CLEANING.



DO
YOU WANT
TO LOOK
IN ON
HIM TOO,
FUMI?

WITH US,
I MEAN?

NO,
I...



...AND
HE'S STILL
UNWELL
TODAY.

AS SOON AS
WE GOT BACK
FROM THE
INSIDE
YESTERDAY, HE
DEVELOPED A
FEVER...

...AND AT
LEAST FOR
HIM, THOSE
SEEM TO
MANIFEST AS
ILLNESS.



PLEASE
TAKE
CARE OF
HIM.

OF
COURSE.
SEE YOU
LATER.



WHAT
ABOUT
YOU,
SENDAI?

I'LL
LEAVE IT
TO YOU.
I HAVE
CHORES
OF MY
OWN.



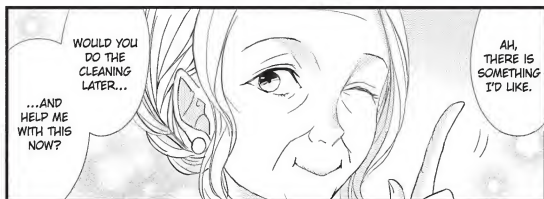
THE LAST
TIME...

...HE
WAS
FEELING
LIKE THAT...



"FUYU..."







SHE WAS
DEFINITELY A
QUEEN.

SHE SWITCHED
WITH FUMI AND
APPEARED.



...AND
THEN SHE
DESTROYED
THEM ALL.

SHE
CONTROLLED
THE BUGS
WITHOUT
BATTING AN
EYE...



WELL,
THE
BLACK
QUEEN
WASN'T
SCARY.

SHOCK
You
mean you're
afraid of
something
besides
dealing
with people?

YOU
WERE
SCARED
?

BUT YOU
WEREN'T
AFFECTED
AT ALL BY
THE BLACK
QUEEN.



SHE
WAS
ALL
WHITE.

SHE WAS
SCARY...
WOULDN'T
LISTEN TO
REASON.



AND
YOU'RE
SURE
SHE
WASN'T
FUMI?

I'M SURE.
SHE DIDN'T
LOOK LIKE
HER AT
ALL.

SHE
WASN'T
THE
BLACK
QUEEN,
EITHER.



JUST
STRONGER—
MORE
CONCENTRATED,
VERY
IMMATURE

...AND
KIND OF
SAD.

...WAS
A LOT LIKE
THE FEELING
I GET FROM
THE BUGS I
DEAL WITH
EVERY DAY.

THE
SENSE
I GOT
FROM
THE
BLACK
QUEEN
...

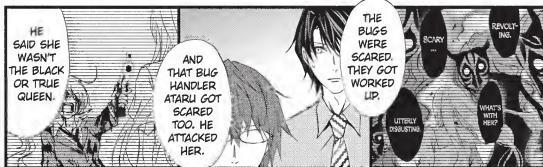


SHE'S SO
BEAUTIFUL
...

...BUT WHEN
SHE LOOKS
AT YOU, YOU
FEEL A LITTLE
UNSURE
ABOUT
YOURSELF.

BUT THIS
ONE WAS
FUNDA-
MENTALLY
DIFFERENT.

OVER-
WHELMING,
YET SHE
SEEMED
EMPTY.



HE
SAID SHE
WASN'T
THE BLACK
OR TRUE
QUEEN.

AND
THAT BUG
HANDLER
ATARU GOT
SCARED
TOO. HE
ATTACKED
HER.

THE
BUGS
WERE
SCARED.
THEY GOT
WORKED
UP.

UTTERLY
DISGUSTING

SCARY

REVOLT-
ING.

WHAT'S
WITH
HER?



PLUS...







DID
SHE SAY
ANYTHING
ABOUT ME?

HOW'S
SHE
DOING?

RATTLE



OR IS
SHE BEING
STOIC?

IS SHE
CRYING?

SHE
REMEMBERED
SOMETHING
ABOUT HER
MOTHER,
DIDN'T SHE?



DRINK
PLENTY OF
WATER AND
REST UP.

I'LL
TELL HER
YOU WERE
WORRIED
ABOUT
HER.

WHEN IT
COMES TO A
BOIL, STIR
IT ONCE,
THEN LET IT
SIMMER.

...IT TASTES
BETTER IF
YOU DON'T
STIR IT TOO
MUCH.

TUK TUK

WHEN YOU
MAKE RICE
PORRIDGE...

GRATED
YAM
GRATED
YAM

NOPE,
THEY'RE
HOLDING
UP.

I'm good
at this.

HOW'S THE
GRATED
JAPANESE
YAM COMING
ALONG?
YOUR HANDS
AREN'T
ITCHING?

FLUFF
FLUFF

It's
rice to
have
your
help.

OH, IT
SMELLS
WONDERFUL.

Sounds
yummy...

IT'S A
CHINESE
METHOD.
I'M
COOKING
IT IN
CHICKEN
BROTH.

GARNISH
WITH A
LITTLE
PARSLEY,
SOME
NORI
FLAKES
...

ADD THE
GRATED
GINGER
AND YAM.

...AND A
SEASONED
POACHED
EGG.

We'll add a
little salt
and soy
sauce.

Just a
dash
will do.

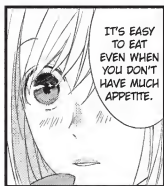
A little
miso
paste
might be
good.

WE'LL
MAKE THE
SEASONING
A BIT
STRONG...

Ohh...

HMM.

I
WONDER
IF IT'S
DONE.





TIMES
WHEN YOU
FIND IT'S
EASIER TO
TOUGH IT
OUT.

THERE
ARE TIMES
WHEN THINGS
ARE DIFFICULT
BUT YOU CAN'T
LET YOURSELF
LEAN ON
ANYONE.



BUT IF YOU
EVER NEED
SOMEONE TO
LEAN ON...

I LOVE
THAT ABOUT
YOU.

...DON'T BE
EMBARRASSED.



THAT'S
TRUE.

EVERYONE
HERE IS
YOUR
FRIEND.

I
THINK
YOU
KNOW
THAT
NOW.

ONCE YOU
BORROW
SOMEONE'S
SHOULDER
...

...YOU'LL
FIND IT
EASIER TO
SHIFT THE
WEIGHT ON
YOUR OWN
SHOULDERS.



EVEN
HABITUAL
THINGS YOU
CAN DO
PROPERLY...

SPACES
THAT SHOW
APPRECIATION
AFTER YOU
CLEAN THEM...

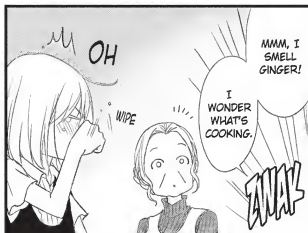
...AND
THE KIND
WORDS
AND
SMILES
OF
GENTLE
PEOPLE.

DELICIOUS,
WARM
FOOD...



...SO MANY
BEAUTIFUL,
WONDERFUL
THINGS FOR
ME NOW—

THERE
ARE...



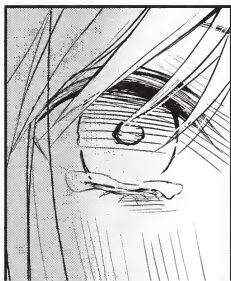
OH

WIFE

MMM, I
SMELL
GINGER!

I
WONDER
WHAT'S
COOKING.

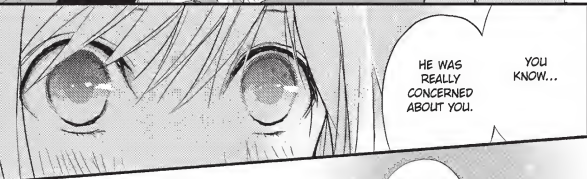
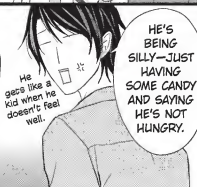
ANAL





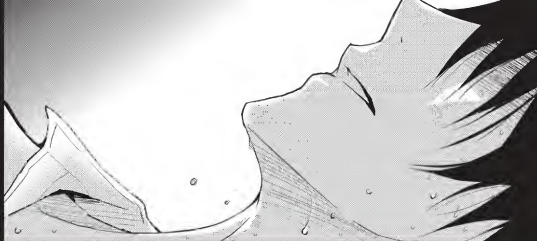
I sneaked into his bedroom, watched him sleep and wound up making him cry.

B-B-BUT THERE WAS THAT TIME I CLIMBED INTO BED WITH HIM WHEN HE WASN'T FEELING GOOD.



WON'T YOU GO SEE HIM?

AND WHEN HE'S BEEN THROUGH SOMETHING TRAUMATIC, HE TENDS TO CRAVE COMPANY.



WAS THAT
FUYU...?

"...KYUTARO
..."

"I
KNOW
YOU..."



I KNOW
IT WASN'T
HER.

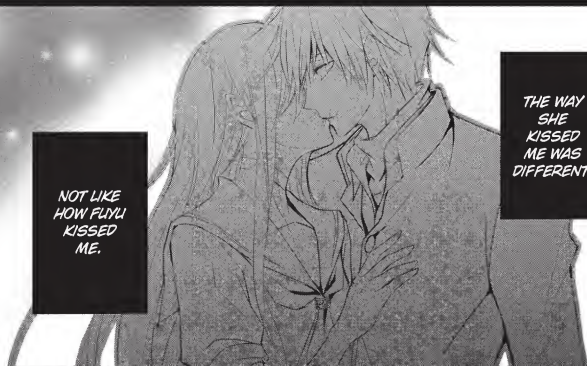
NO, I'M
SURE.

IT
PROBABLY
WASN'T...

NO, IT
WASN'T.

NOT LIKE
HOW FUYU
KISSED
ME.

THE WAY
SHE
KISSED
ME WAS
DIFFERENT.





WHAT
DOES IT
MEAN?

WHY DID
SHE GIVE
ME THAT
LOOK
FOR A
SECOND?

...HOW
DOES
SHE
KNOW
ME?

AND WHY
WOULD
SHE KISS
ME?

BUT
THEN
...



PROTECT
WHAT?

"PROTECT
ME."

WHAT
TRUTH?

"PLEASE
RECOGNIZE
THE TRUTH."



MY
FLYU
IS...

NO
MATTER
WHAT...

...IT HAS
TO BE
HER.

KYLITARO
...?

FLYU...



FLYU
...



HERE,
LET ME...
WIPE YOUR
FOREHEAD
...

S-SORRY
TO WAKE
YOU!



IT'S RICE
PORRIDGE!
IT'S SO
GOOD!
PLEASE
HAVE
SOME.

I-I
BROUGHT
SOME
FOOD...!

I
SEE...

I'M NOT
VERY
HUNGRY
...



I
SWOOPED
IN RIGHT
WHEN YOU
SEEMED
UPSET.

BABBLE
BABBLE

OH,
UH—I'M
SORRY!
JUST
LIKE LAST
TIME!

N-
NISHIOKA!

BUT
NOT ON
PURPOSE
!

WHY'RE
YOU—

Jolt



IF
I STAY,
I'LL JUST
BE A
BOTHER.

Why...?
W-WELL,
I STILL
HAVE
SOME
CLEANING
TO DO.

REALLY
...?

...

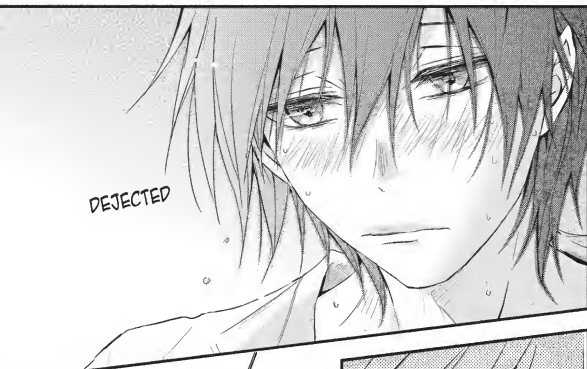


HUH?
WHY?

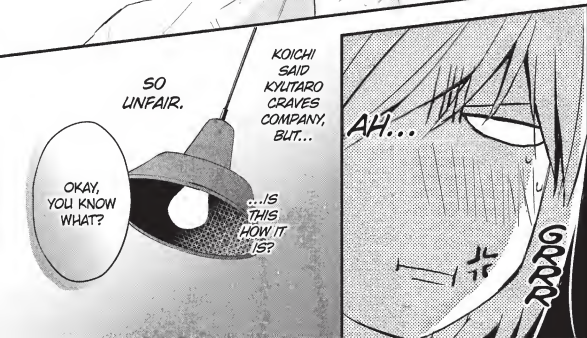
ARE
YOU
BUSY
?

O-OH?
TRY TO
EAT
JUST A
LITTLE?

I'LL
LEAVE
IT WITH
YOU.
TAKE
YOUR
TIME.



DEJECTED



SO
UNFAIR.

KOICHI
SAID
KYUTARO
CRAVES
COMPANY,
BUT...

OKAY,
YOU KNOW
WHAT?

...IS
THIS
HOW IT
IS?

AH...



BUT YOU HAVE TO EAT THIS.

I'll sit here for a second.

I'LL HELP YOU EAT.

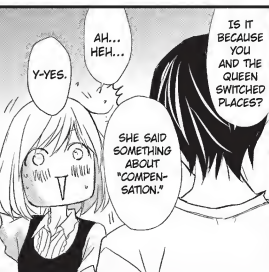
I'LL STAY.

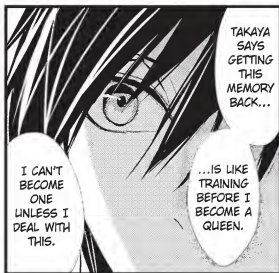
KAKAKA















WHY
CAN'T I...

Y-YOU'RE
MEAN.

DON'T
LOOK.

NO.

DON'T
LOOK AT
ME.

D...

...STOP
CRYING?

SHOW
ME.

I
WANT TO
LOOK.





WE
WON'T
GO
AWAY.

THAT
WON'T
HAPPEN.



NONE
OF US'LL
LEAVE YOU.
GRANNY
WON'T...

CRYING
WON'T
KEEP YOU
FROM
BECOMING
A QUEEN.

AND
YOU DON'T
HAVE TO
BECOME
ONE.

IT'S YOU.
I KNOW
IT IS.

...AND I
DEFINITELY
WON'T.

AHH,
YOU'RE SO
PRETTY...

...KOICHI
WON'T,
TAKAYA
WON'T...

I'LL
KNOW
FOR
SURE...

I'LL
STAY WITH
YOU...

I'LL
NEVER
LET YOU
BE ALONE
AGAIN.

...
FOREVER.

I WANT
TO KISS
YOU.

...THAT
YOU'RE
FLYING.

THEN
I'LL
KNOW.

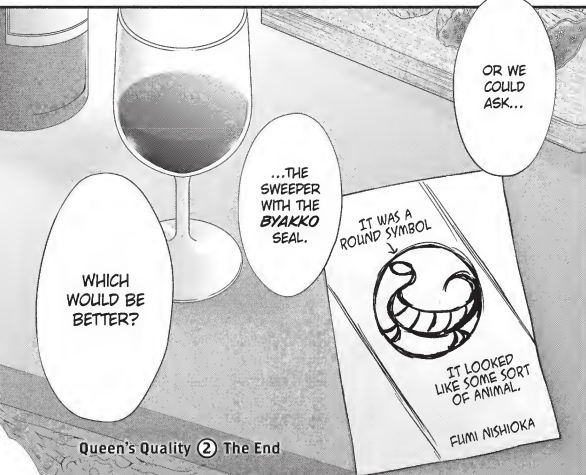




FOR
NOW...

...WE
SHOULD
FIND OUT
ALL WE
CAN ABOUT
HER FROM
SOMEONE
WHO
KNOWS.

MAYBE
THAT BUG
HANDLER
...?



OR WE
COULD
ASK...

...THE
SWEEPER
WITH THE
BYAKKO
SEAL.

WHICH
WOULD BE
BETTER?

IT WAS A
ROUND SYMBOL



IT LOOKED
LIKE SOME SORT
OF ANIMAL.

FUMI NISHIOKA



I always do stretches. They hurt just right for my masochistic heart. Using a shot like this to represent myself probably looks a bit dodgy. Maybe I should stop rendering myself in the nude...

—Kyouzuke Motomi

Author Bio

Born on August 1, Kyouzuke Motomi debuted in *Deluxe Betsucomi* with *Hetakuso Kyupiddo* (No Good Cupid) in 2002. She is the creator of *Dengeki Daisy*, *Beast Master* and *QQ Sweeper*, all available in North America from VIZ Media. Motomi enjoys sleeping, tea ceremonies and reading Haruki Murakami.

Queen's Quality

Vol. 2

Shojo Beat Edition

STORY AND ART BY
KYOUSUKE MOTOMI

QUEEN'S QUALITY Vol. 2

by Kyouzuke MOTOMI

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PARENTAL ADVISORY

QUEEN'S QUALITY is rated T for Teen and is recommended for ages 13 and up. This volume contains suggestive themes and violence.